

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



Office of Worship
P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028
Phone: (225) 242-0120
Fax: (225) 336-8731
E-Mail: tranzino@diobr.org

RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Sunday date: September 19-20, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

This week's Gospel gives the second prediction of the passion. In Cycle B this is presented without the story of the Transfiguration which gives to Peter, James and John the astounding revelation. As they come down the mountain, Jesus tells them of His coming passion, being delivered into the hands of those who would kill Him, though He will rise after three days. One would have thought that these disciples would understand, but in fact, they do not. Instead of hearing Jesus' words as applying to them, they are more concerned about who is the greatest. Jesus is plain in His speaking to them that they must be servants of all, the least of all to follow Him. A *child* is given as the example – truly the least in importance in the culture.

Mark's Gospel reiterates that greatness comes from serving the least, power comes from serving the powerless, and serving the poor in the name of the Lord is true discipleship. The Letter of St. James continues with concerns about Christian harmony in forming church.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. In a practical sense, what does serving the least in the name of the Lord mean for your life?
2. Whom would you identify to have caught Jesus' call to discipleship as described in the passage from Mark?
3. What causes fear in you when you think about being a "servant of all?"

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. The *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling with Holy Water* would be appropriate as baptism initiates one into the life of discipleship. If you would choose to use the third form of the Penitential Rite here is an example:
 - You were the obedient servant of the will of the Father...
 - You endured the cross that we may come to new life in you...
 - You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...
2. The alternative Opening Prayer is complex in thought and would be best not chosen. The first Opening Prayer is the more recommended, even as it highlights the reading from James.
3. Ordinary Time Sunday Preface IV which refers to Christ's suffering freeing us from sin and death is recommended.
4. Numbers 14 or 17 of the "prayers over the people" is recommended; Solemn Blessing no. 3 for Ordinary Time echoes the theme from the Letter of James.

Looking Ahead...

1. All Saints' Day, November 1, is on a Sunday this year. The next day, All Souls' Day, is in the Western Church the traditional day for visiting/blessing of graves as we pray for the departed, even though in south Louisiana this practice is more identified with All Saints' Day.
2. When carrying out the Prayer of the Faithful, it is good practice for the deacon or lector or cantor who is leading these to pause briefly after each petition is announced. This quiet pause allows for the congregation to include their own personal prayer intentions relative to the topic, and makes the general intercessions more their own.
3. The USCCB's Committee for Divine Worship has set up a website offering much information about the progress being made on the new translation of the third edition of the *Roman Missal*, including the actual texts which are foreseen. You are encouraged to visit this site, at <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal>. Remember, however, that it is expressly forbidden to use these prayer-texts before they are approved and promulgated by the Holy See.

SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS FOR THE 25th ORDINARY SUNDAY

Priest: With confidence of faith, we give our prayers to the Father:

Deacon (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For deeper discipleship among all baptized faithful; that our lives may be centered on Christ and the common good He champions, we pray to the Lord...
2. For a new world where peace and justice are considered in the making of law and the promotion of rights and dignity for all people, we pray to the Lord...
3. For protection of life and property during this hurricane season; for those who have suffered in the past due to natural disasters, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who serve the Church in the ministries of catechesis; for all who teach and witness faith to youth and adults; we pray to the Lord...
5. For unbaptized catechumens and baptized candidates for the sacraments of the Church; may they be led more clearly into God's desire for their lives, we pray to the Lord...
6. For all children, especially the unborn and those vulnerable to abuse, that God may protect them from all forms of harm, we pray to the Lord...
7. For all who have died in faith; may they rest in peace, we pray to the Lord...
8. In peace and in silence, we offer to God our prayers of need...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: Faithful God, you are our encouragement in times of need.
Hear us as we pray, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.