

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 Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Sunday date: February 14-15, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview for this Sunday...

The Gospel from Mark offers a familiar scene of Jesus meeting a leper [Hansen's Disease], and hearing a request for healing. He is moved with pity by the man, cures him, and then cautions him to tell no one. Then Jesus retreats to a deserted place.

The one with leprosy is an outcast in society, as indicated in the First Reading from the Hebrew Testament. The one who is healed begins to proclaim loudly that he was cured – just as he had to proclaim before that he was “unclean-stay away.” Jesus is being presented not as a magician [which is why the man was told to tell no one] but as one who comes over and over in the Eucharist to sustain, nurture and care for those who follow Him. Jesus is our mediator before the Father – Jesus the healer.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. Jesus heard the man appeal for help: how well do you listen when people ask you for something?
2. What does this healing story mean for your faith?
3. What is the difference between curing and saving?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. Sample Penitential Rite: Consider the ideas in form three, sample no. C-8, in the *Sacramentary*: “You came to heal the sick and the sinner; You heal the wounds of sin and division; You forgive our sins and intercede for us at the right hand of the Father”
2. Use first option for the Opening Prayer. It is more succinctly “on point.”
3. Consider using the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I, with its own Preface; or use Preface V for Sundays of Ordinary Time
4. The Blessing for Ordinary Time III is appropriate.

Looking Ahead...

1. Next weekend is the last weekend before Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25.
2. It’s not too early to begin preparations for your Lectors in how you will handle the readings for the Scrutiny Sundays of Lent [Lent 3/4/5]. The readings from Cycle A are expected for Masses in which the Scrutiny is done with the unbaptized Elect. This presents a challenge for those who preach that weekend, with the potential need to prepare two homilies; alternatively, you can choose to use the Cycle A readings for all the Masses on those three weekends.
3. Details of your church’s Lenten environment should be determined by now.

SAMPLE INTERCESSORY PRAYERS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE B

Priest: We turn to our Father in heaven who is filled with compassion and mercy:

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

1. For the welfare of the Church and those who minister in the name of Christ Jesus, we pray to the Lord...
2. For our nation and every nation; for peace and justice in place of war and oppression, we pray to the Lord...
3. For all who live in chronic pain; for those who heal and encourage those who suffer, we pray to the Lord...
4. For all who are struggling with finances, health crises, unhappy relationships, despair and hopelessness; may God offer comfort and hope, we pray to the Lord...
5. For those who have died in faith and for the dead whose faith is known to God alone, we pray to the Lord...
6. In peace and in silence we offer to God our prayers of need...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: Loving Father, you know the prayers of the just.
Grant our needs.
We offer our prayers through Christ our Lord.
Amen.