

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Solemnity of Pentecost – Cycle B

Sunday or Feast Day date: Vigil – May 30, 2009, Solemnity Itself – May 31, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

[Vigil]

The Solemnity of Pentecost is not truly a remembrance of the first Pentecost as much as it is a celebration of the completion of the Paschal Easter season, and the fullness of the Risen Christ who now remains with the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is more easily seen in the Scriptures for the Vigil, which do not focus on the events of the original Pentecost. The Vigil brings a return to the structural Liturgy of the Word with the Hebrew Testament reading [of which there are a number of choices] coming before the Christian Testament reading. In all of the Old Testament texts the Spirits' manifold gifts displayed in the creatures of the earth are vividly presented in poetry and wonder-stories. In all, the Holy Spirit's activities are renewing the face of the earth. The New Testament reading is from Romans 8, and announces the Spirit as the beginning of the hoped-for time to come, where the Spirit's activity is not a sign of the completion of an age, but the first sign of the age to come. The Gospel from John speaks of the coming of the Spirit as water for those who believe. This Solemnity is truly a celebration of the Church, present at this time and a sign, imperfect as the Church may be, of the Kingdom yet to come.

[Day]

We keep in mind again that Pentecost day is not a historicization of the event of the first Christian Pentecost. Rather, this day feast is a completion for the Spirit is given new to those who believe for the sake of those who are to be the disciples in our midst. Keep clear the distinction of Spirit as gift and not possession. Gift is meant to be shared, and truly the Spirit is shown in giving. The Lectionary assigns two options for the Second Reading; a Sequence before the Gospel and two choices for the Gospel

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. What is your most vivid experience of God's Holy Spirit?
2. What grace or gift from God has been yours during the Easter season?
3. How would you describe the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your Church community?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

[Vigil]

1. How will your church building look for the Solemnity of Pentecost?
2. The most appropriate opening ritual for this Solemnity is the *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling*, as this Feast concludes the Easter season; and this raises the community's awareness of the presence of the Spirit with them already through baptism.
3. The Opening Prayer offers three options. Each has a particular focus on the Spirit's presence. Option One refers to the Spirit who unites; Option Two speaks of the fifty days of Easter and the Spirit's power to overcome divisions; Option Three asks for light and strength from the Spirit.
4. The Preface for Pentecost is prescribed as mandatory.
5. The Solemn Blessing of Pentecost is prescribed as well.
6. If you choose to use Eucharistic Prayer I (the Roman Canon) note there is a special commemoration for Pentecost.

[Day]

1. The *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling* is the best choice for the beginning of Mass on this day too, as it draws to a close the Easter Season.
2. There are two options for the Opening Prayer. The Second Option is stronger in the biblical imagery for the Day – referring to light, wind, peace, love. If chosen, it would be important for the presider to offer this prayer slowly so that the images can be distinct.
3. The Preface for Pentecost is prescribed as mandatory.
4. The Solemn Blessing for Pentecost is also prescribed.

Looking Ahead...

1. Next weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity; the following weekend is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord. These are “idea” feasts and will need special care to convey meaning through the Scriptural word. The liturgical décor can still reflect some of the Easter décor during these two Sundays.
2. June 21 is the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary [ordinal] Time. June 21 is also Father’s Day. There is a blessing of Fathers in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 56. The Introduction is helpful in determining how best to integrate the blessing into the Sunday liturgy. The focus of the day is not Father’s Day of course but the Sunday observance.
3. The Office of Worship is co-sponsoring with the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions two workshops on June 18. The first from 1:30 to 4:00 pm will be for priests and deacons, exploring the implications for the sung liturgy as given in the US bishops’ recent document entitled *Sing to the Lord*. The second workshop, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, will be for musicians, DRE’s and all who work in the preparation for liturgy, also examining the directives from *Sing to the Lord* and music within the Liturgy. Registration information is available at the Diocesan Office of Worship. Both workshops will be located at St. Aloysius Parish Hall on Stuart Avenue in Baton Rouge.
4. The diocese also is co-sponsoring an Initiation Institute with the North American Forum on the Catechumenate on June 26-27: *Furthering the Initiation Experience*. This Institute is aimed at deepening the formation of those involved in RCIA ministry in the parish. Registration information is found through the Office of Evangelization and also at www.naforum.org
5. Mr. Michael Trotta is a pastoral musician who is seeking employment in the Diocese. Attached to this edition of *Liturgical Notes* is his résumé.

Sample Intercessories for the Solemnity of Pentecost

Priest: Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us give voice to our pleadings before the Father of all creation...

1. For the animating Spirit of God to guide Benedict our Pope and Robert our Bishop in their shepherding ministry over the Church, we pray to the Lord...
2. That a Spirit of peace will overcome the evil spirit of war and hatred in our world and among people of different races and religions, we pray to the Lord...
3. For a Spirit of understanding and compassion on those who live on the bed of pain; for those who long for healing in relationships, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who live in the poverty of want; for those who have no place to sleep; for those who are constantly hungry; for those whose sorrows and anxieties never seem to cease, we pray to the Lord...
5. That the Spirit of consolation will be upon those who mourn, and for those who have entered eternal life, we pray to the Lord...
6. In peace and in silence we pray to God for our needs...

[Pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: God of power and might,
in you we live and have our being.
Give us your Spirit
so that we may walk with you always.
We pray through Christ, our Risen Lord.
Amen.