

Lector Workshop

September 20, 2007
St. Joseph Church

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Introduction

- Opening Prayer
- Introduction of Presenters
 - Liturgy and Worship Team
- Explanation of Roles and Functions
 - Parish Clergy and Lay People appointed by the pastor

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Tonight's Theme

- Ministry of the Word -
The Ministry of Hearing and Proclaiming

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Reading is a Ministry

- Ministry means Service.
- All are called to Service.
- Lectors are Liturgical Ministers.
- They are seen by the assembly in a special way at Mass.
- Liturgical Ministers come from the assembly, called to serve (proclaim).
- They return to the assembly to serve in another way.

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The 4 Presences of Christ

- He is present in the gathered assembly.
- He is present in the presiding priest.
- He is present in the Word – the sacred scripture.
- He is present in the shared meal – the consecrated bread and wine.

5

A Person of Prayer

- A Liturgical Minister is a person of prayer.
- How can you lead the prayer life of the parish if you are not a person of prayer yourself?

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Liturgical Books

- The Lectionary
- The Book of the Gospels
- What are they?
- Symbol and Reality.
- Alive and Dynamic.
- How to handle and revere.

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Reading or Proclaiming

- Reading Scripture. (Private Prayer)
- Proclaiming Scripture. (Public Prayer)
- What's the difference to you?
- What's the difference to the assembly?

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Liturgical Transparency

- How to be effective and "get out of the way."
- Become God's instrument.
- Let God's words speak through you.
- Prepare well ahead of time.

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Procedures

- Mechanics of Reading:
clarity, pace, pronunciation (check ahead of time).
- The art of waiting for the assembly to settle down before reading.
- Using the microphone. The sound system has some technical intricacies.
- Don't respond to the assembly's response.
- Don't add text. Read only what is written.

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Full, Conscious, Active Participation

- This is the mandate from Vatican-II.
- Liturgical Ministers need to engage the Mass both when functioning as a member of the liturgical team and when functioning as a member of the assembly.
- Your actions speak symbolically to others.

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Symbols of Belief

- Your ministry has outward symbolism.
- What does the assembly see when they see you?
- Do they see symbols of faith, service and reverence?
- Do you look like you believe what you believe?
- You are also a minister of welcoming.

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Preparation

Prepare about a week in advance of the liturgy with the Lectionary passage to be proclaimed, a pen and notebook or journal, and about 15-20 minutes of uninterrupted time.

Pray silently for about a minute or two, asking for God's grace and wisdom.

Read the passage aloud and return to silence, writing down a word, phrase, or idea that struck you.

Read the passage aloud a second time, this time asking, "What might God be saying to me in this?" Write down a sentence or two, even if there's nothing and you have to write, "I have no earthly idea."

Read the passage aloud a third time, with the question: What message is there here for my parish? Write down another sentence or two, even if you can only repeat the other sentence.

Only now, consult the note in the Lector Workbook or Biblical commentary. Construct an oral presentation of this Scripture passage so that it can be clear where the core message is to be heard.

Continue daily prayer through the coming week.

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Roundtable

- Closing Prayer
- Those who wish to depart may do so.
- Invitation to remain and continue discussions.

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