

Worship Meeting Agenda

(Editor's note: These agenda items provide a listing of possible topics to consider at the next parish liturgy committee meeting. Select the topics that will guide your preparations for the months ahead.)

SUMMONING THE SPIRIT IN PRAYER

- Combine the Collect and the Prayer after Communion from the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (A) as an opening prayer. Sing "From Ashes to the Living Font" (text: A. Hommerding, tune: ST. FLAVIAN, CM, © World Library Publications, 1994, 2011, published in *Gather*, third edition, GIA Publications), using a verse or two from Year B.
- From Appendix VI of *The Roman Missal*, prepare and distribute copies of The Universal Prayer Attributed to Pope Clement XI. Invite each person to pray a stanza for the group. A member could sprinkle each person with holy water (bucket and aspergillum ready) as you conclude with the Sign of the Cross.
- Use the intercessions for the elect from the second scrutiny in the text of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (167), combining both A and B. Invite the committee to internalize these as intercessory prayer for their journey this Lent.

PREPARING TO DO GOOD WORK

- Briefly return to Lent and Triduum 2017 and review all notes. If you are new to archiving, begin now to create notes about what was done, how it happened, and what the end of Lent looked like and felt like in the parish. Return briefly for commendations and recommendations regarding Lent and the Triduum of the previous year.
- Make certain that the Triduum has capable coordinators, considering whether a different team for each liturgy of the Triduum would be appropriate for the parish. Coordinators can meet to share notes and liturgical practices during the week before Holy Week. A separate group of art and environment volunteers should meet to rehearse their preparations, using the checklists in *The Sacristy Manual*, second edition (G. Thomas Ryan, published by Liturgy Training Publications, 2011).
- Plan to publish on the parish website and as a bulletin insert "A Night That Transforms" from the current issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®.

ENVISIONING THE SEASON OF EASTER

- Anticipate the season of Easter by meeting early in March. Assist in budgeting for fifty days of floral adornment or creatively assisting the art and environment team in sourcing flowers that extend until the Solemnity of Pentecost.
- Discuss ways to draw the attention of the congregation to those candidates who are received into full communion and receive Confirmation and Eucharist. Share a copy of "Receiving

Candidates," by Gael Gensler, in this issue with the Christian initiation team and worship committee members.

- Decide with pastor and clergy if the Apostles' Creed will be used during the season of Easter, because of its significant connection to our baptismal promises. Recommend also that the sprinkling rite replace the Penitential Act each Sunday. Encourage consistency, and make sure that the congregation has access to a copy of the Apostles' Creed in the appropriate languages for the assembly. Be sure to catechize the assembly, in advance, regarding these two liturgical practices.
- Plan a worship committee meeting for the third week of Easter so that reflections on the Triduum will still be fresh. Document commendations and recommendations with the committee. Better still, host a sandwich supper and include as many of the Triduum leaders in a roundtable reflection. Honor their presence with a special tray of cookies for each person, a budding plant, or another homemade gift of thanks.
- Pentecost anticipates a renewal of discipleship for every person in the congregation. Appoint two persons from the worship committee to study and determine how the parish welcomes and sustains relationships in faith. The following may be among their considerations: How does the parish help people find a place, especially if it is a growing multilingual and multicultural parish? How can the devotional life of the parish encourage discipleship? How does the parish attract and sustain new members? Create a report and review it at the next meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER

- If the church is nearby, move there to pray Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours.
- Standing in a circle with each person holding a candle, ask a leader to proclaim the shorter version of the *Exsultet*. Conclude your prayer with the Litany of the Saints from the Easter Vigil.
- Invite a cantor to assist in the closing prayer, leading the group in a familiar sung version of Psalm 118. Conclude by reading the Collect from the Monday within the Octave of Easter from *The Roman Missal*.

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

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