

Worship Meeting Agenda

A PRAYERFUL BEGINNING

- Before Pentecost, open the meeting with a combined reading of each of the Prefaces for Easter. Pray the first paragraph of an Easter Preface once, then include each of the middle paragraphs as the prayer. Alternate readers for the five paragraphs, finishing as a group with “Holy, Holy, Holy. . . .”
- May is dedicated to celebrating the Blessed Mother, who is Queen of Heaven. Invite a psalmist and accompanist to lead the group in sung prayer, using Luke 1:46–55: Magnificat (James J. Chepponis, © GIA Publications, 1980), *Salve Regina* (Chant Mode V), Hail, Holy Queen (SALVE REGINA COELITUM, Herold), or *Oh Santísima/Mary, Full of Grace* (trans. J. Frolick, SFCC, in Spanish, OCP Publications © 1973.)
- Use appendix 2 of *The Roman Missal*, adapting the Rite for Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water for the committee. Ideally, invite a priest or deacon to bless the water while leading the group in prayer. Remember to use a large bowl of water as a symbol of the water of Baptism.

CONSIDER AND EVALUATE

- During the meeting after Easter, share notes and photos. Make up a list of commendations and recommendations regarding Lent and the Triduum. Facilitate this discussion with the goal of improving the congregation’s worship, including their experience and their participation. List needs (budget, materials, ritual books, environment, volunteers) and vow to consider each element when Ordinary Time in the fall commences.
- Resist the temptation to include the neophytes in leadership roles until at least their first anniversary of initiation. Assist their sponsors in finding the neophytes a place in the life of the parish, and help them to continue to be catechized by the Sunday Mass.
- Consider the many workshop and continuing education opportunities that are scheduled for the summer. Consider combining vacation time with a liturgical conference; many conferences have one-day tickets. Help the pastor understand that a conference/update/training can benefit the entire parish.

ANTICIPATE, CELEBRATE, AND ENVISION

- Suggest to the art and environment team that they scout local gardeners and gardens to add abundant and deepening green colors to the worship space during Ordinary Time.
- Determine annually the patronal day and date of your church’s namesake, and make certain this date is on the parish calendar and that a celebration, even a modest one, is planned.
- Plan a simple picnic meal for the next meeting. Invite a few of the parish leaders who might not know the work of the

Worship Committee to join in a simple potluck meal. Ask one person to welcome guests, state the goal and vision briefly, then use the remainder of the time for networking.

- Use Rev. Ronald Raab’s article from this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*® for a twenty-minute reflection on “Living Out the Mercy of God,” one of the subheads of the article. As a group discuss the question “How does the Eucharist at our parish restore us to love, compassion, and health?”
- Consider and list: which liturgical events can our parish undertake so that we can grow as evangelizers? Should you begin children’s Liturgy of the Word (see *Children’s Liturgy of the Word*, published annually by LTP)? Are communal Penance services needed? How does the parish welcome visitors and guests, the infrequent worshipper, the disabled? Whom do we recognize and bless, within our assembly, at the end of Mass?
- Create the meeting schedule for all of Ordinary Time, and discuss any need for inviting new members to the worship committee. Consider whether members’ terms should be limited to three years.

SENDING FORTH

- Join in saying two decades of the Rosary before an icon or statue of the Blessed Mother, and ask the members to finish the Rosary “for the intention of immigrants and refugees” before the end of the week.
- Make the Sign of the Cross, and pray the Sequence for Pentecost (both the prose and the poetic text, see the Lectionary) as an act of faith in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray Evening Prayer (or Morning Prayer or Midday Prayer, depending on the time) from the Liturgy of the Hours for the particular date of the meeting. Discover the resources that are reprintable or easily accessible electronically.

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

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