

Worship Meeting Agenda

OPENING PRAYER

- Begin with a lavish, symbolic reminder of Baptism as the group gathers around a large bowl of water and prays the Prayer over the Water (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, 258A). As the water is blessed, invite each person to make the Sign of the Cross. After the blessing, recite the Apostles' Creed together. Provide a worship aid that includes the blessing and the Creed, so that all may read the blessing in parts.
- Ask a member to read the Prayer of Saint Ambrose in appendix VI of *The Roman Missal*. Noting that July is the Month of the Precious Blood, allow five minutes for *lectio divina* so that phrases of the prayer can be connected to the Precious Blood and the Real Presence.
- Using Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, alternate readers of paragraphs 1–5. Conclude with a contemplative-style reading of paragraph 222, and sing several verses of the *Canticle of the Sun* (Haugen, © GIA Publications, 1980).

REVIEWING AND REIMAGINING

- To coordinate with the summer environment, plan for this meeting to be outdoors, if possible, or indoors with a view of nature. Share a picnic brunch or supper. Discuss how Ordinary Time is not “ordinary” in the parish, and be specific about the worship environment. Determine whether new readers are needed and whether an update would be valuable for current readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Focus on how community can be built during the summer.
- If your parish hosts a vacation Bible school, plan several mornings of liturgical catechesis for parents who drop off their children. Consider discussion of the liturgy after showing portions of the videos *All Gathered Here: Celebrating the Liturgical Life of the Church* or *A History of the Mass Bilingual / Una historia de la Misa*, both published by Liturgy Training Publications. Provide refreshments. Seek junior high volunteers to play with the youngest children.
- Review and accept recommendations for new committee members or ways to energize veterans. Resolve issues around storage of decorative elements, replacement of vessels or vestments, and any needed closet or storage area.
- If a cantor workshop is not available locally, make plans to host a gathering for cantors/psalmists for several nearby parishes. Determine possible facilitator(s) and accompanist(s) and the number of languages in which the workshop will be given. Consider including in the workshop a roundtable of singing and discussion in which participants develop top ten lists of psalms, hymns, and anthems in their congregation while singing verses of those compositions. Conclude with a psalm or anthem that may be a new, multicultural selection.

ANTICIPATING LITURGICAL SEASONS

- Gather the Christian initiation inquiry team for a formation update. Share the article “Disciples Discern,” by Donna Steffen, sc, in this issue of *Pastoral Liturgy*®. Affirm the team's commitment, and discuss offering year-round inquiry.
- Evaluate the art and environment in the worship space. Discuss whether it will feature deepening “greens” as Ordinary Time progresses and whether fresh arrangements will be sourced from local gardens. (The growing of flowers and plants could develop into stewardship for the parish.) Encourage the group to look critically at the placement of the environment for worship. Consider whether flowers or greens are in spaces where few can see them. Encourage a seasonal shrine that supports the piety and culture of a group in the parish. Is the environment proportionate to the *volume* of the worship space?
- Schedule a fall ministry morning for September. Invite a speaker who can energize all liturgical ministers. Plan time for a roundtable discussion for people to name the joys of their ministry. Collect the lists and share online for all participants. (Invite liturgical ministers to bring their favorite breakfast cake or treat to share. Provide fruit, coffee, and tea.)
- Since the Solemnity of the Assumption is on Wednesday, make plans to provide an early Mass opportunity (6:00 AM) or late one (at sunset), and advertise in the local paper or front yard of the parish church. Actively promote observance of the day on the parish website, and plan familiar, accessible music for Mass. Publish brief catechetical pieces in the parish bulletin. Offer an “on the go” snack as people depart the Mass. Evaluate as a prime evangelization opportunity to attract people.

SENDING FORTH

- Read the conclusion to Bradley A. Zamora's article “Praying the Liturgy in the Face of Violence.” Listen (use YouTube) to a recording of “Let There Be Peace On Earth” (Jackson/Miller, © GIA Publications, 1993) or “The Peace of the Earth / La Paz de la Tierra” (Carson/Bell, © 1998, the Iona Community, GIA Publications).
- Pray a decade of the Rosary together, with the intention of peace in the world. ♦

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At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

Find and share this article with parish staff and the liturgy committee at: <http://www.pastoralliturgy.org/resources/PSLV049I04WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf>