

TOPIC THREE: LITURGY & COMMUNAL WORSHIP

GOAL:

To help the candidate grow in the understanding of, appreciation for, and participation in the faith community's communal worship, especially the Eucharist.

RATIONALE:

Communal worship is at the very heart of the faith community's life and one of the most essential sources for its vitality. Confirmation, in a real sense, implies a sincere commitment to this dimension of one's faith life.

BACKGROUND:

It is not uncommon for youth—and adults—to have difficulty in their efforts to experience Mass as the meaningful, energizing, and inspiring celebration it is intended to be.

To some degree, the cause may lie in the individual's lack of motivation and participation. More often, it is due to an underdeveloped awareness of the real nature and significance of these communal celebrations and the skills needed to participate effectively.

In your discussions with your candidate on this topic, attempt to pinpoint the causes for any difficulties he or she may be experiencing and deal with them as best you can or with the help of the teachers.

As stated in connection with the other topics, do not expect miracles, whereby every Mass becomes for the candidate an experience of "spiritual fireworks." It is sufficient to nurture in the candidate a commitment and willingness to strive to make communal worship a central part of his or her ongoing life as a Christian.

PRAYER

Sponsor: After Jesus died, rose, and ascended back to His Father, He knew that we would need other ways to approach God until He returned in glory at the end of time. Jesus didn't leave us alone. He didn't say, "I'm going back to heaven now. Good luck. Everyone fend for himself or herself." This is what He did say:
I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. . . . you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. *John 14:18, 20*
Through the sacraments and Mass we meet Jesus and realize our unity with God and with one another in God.

Pray Together: Psalm 118, Part C

ACTIVITY I:

SCRIPTURE SEARCH – EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY

1. Read together each of the Scripture passages below.
2. Discuss each passage together in the light of these questions:
 - a. Do you have trouble believing Jesus is actually present in the Word, in the Eucharist, and in the community during Mass?
 - b. Imagine you have just become a Catholic and are hearing these words for the first time. How do you think you might feel? What questions would you have? Would you find these words exciting? Comforting? Challenging? Why or why not?

John 6:51-59

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

Matthew 26:26-30

ACTIVITY II: REVIEW OF THE MASS

1. Review together the outline of the Mass on the following pages.
2. Agree on a time when you can attend Mass together.
3. Immediately following Mass, go over the outline, and discuss each element using these questions as aids:
 - a. Do you feel you understand the nature and purpose of this aspect of the Mass? Do you have any problems with it?
 - b. What might help make it more meaningful to you? What could you do to better enter into the spirit of this part of the liturgy?

Watch: Sign on to Formed. On the Home page pull down the menu from the “Programs” button. Click “Youth Programs” on the menu. Click on the “YDisciple” tile. Chose the “Prayer” section from the dropdown box. Click on Practicing Prayer with Jackie Francois. Advance the video to the third session (beginning at 9:43) and watch the complete session (ending at 16:31).

STRUCTURE OF THE MASS

I. Introductory Rite

A. Purpose

1. To gather to become a worshipping community
2. To ask God's forgiveness
3. To prepare both to listen to God's Word and to celebrate **Eucharist**

B. Parts

1. Gathering song
2. Greeting
3. Rite of Holy Water Blessing or Penitential Rite
4. Kyrie or Lord, Have Mercy
5. Gloria
6. Opening Prayer

II. Liturgy of the Word

A. Purpose

To hear and reflect on God's Word

B. Parts

1. Proclaiming the Scriptures (for example, Old Testament, Epistle, Gospel)
2. Reflection and Psalm response to first reading
3. Alleluia (before Gospel)
4. Homily (explanation of and reflection on God's Word, after Gospel)
5. Profession of Faith
6. General Intercessions

III. Liturgy of the Eucharist

A. Preparation of the Gifts

1. Purpose

- a. To prepare the bread and cup for the sacrifice
- b. To provide a time of interior readiness for the Liturgy of the Eucharist

2. Parts

- a. Preparation of the Gifts (bringing gifts to the altar, placing them on the table, blessing prayer)
- b. Invitation to prayer
- c. Prayer over the gifts

B. Eucharistic Prayer

1. Purpose:

To join with Christ in praise and thanksgiving for the works of God and in offering his one sacrifice

2. Parts

a. Introductory dialogue

b. Preface

c. Sanctus or Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

d. Eucharistic Prayer (including typically)

+ Praise to the Father

+ Invocation of the Holy Spirit (before or after the consecration or recalling of the Lord's Supper)

+ The Lord's Supper ('consecration)

+ Memorial prayer

+ In communion with the saints; prayers for the Church and for the dead (before or after recalling the Lord's Supper)

+ Concluding doxology

+ Great Amen

C. Communion Rite

1. Purpose

a. To prepare to receive Christ's sacramental body and blood

b. To receive Christ's sacramental body and blood

c. To commune with Christ and one another in him

2. Parts

a. Lord's Prayer

b. Sign of Peace

c. Breaking of the Bread (including Lamb of God)

d. Communion

e. Prayer after Communion

IV. Concluding Rite

A. Purpose

1. To conclude the Mass

2. To prepare to go forth in service and to be Eucharist to others

B. Parts

1. Blessing (possibly including Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People)

2. Dismissal

3. Often there is a concluding Hymn

TOPIC THREE: LITURGY AND COMMUNAL WORSHIP

PROGRESS REPORT

Date: _____

Name: Sponsor _____

Candidate _____

Sponsor: What I discovered in this lesson(s) was:

Candidate: What I discovered in this lesson(s) was:

Sponsor: What specific tasks/assignments should your candidate work on in relation to this topic:

- a. between now and your next meeting?

- b. in a long-range manner?