

The Ministry of Reader

PREPARATION

- To make the service of the Word effective, all readers are expected to be prepared for their ministry. Preparation should be spiritual, scriptural, and practical. Spiritual preparation involves prayer over the text and reflection on its message. Scriptural preparation involves understanding the text.
- Practical preparation involves mastering difficult words, learning the right pronunciations and practicing the delivery of the text aloud.
- Arrive in ample time before the liturgy and locate the readings in the Lectionary.
- Before Mass: the reader should ensure that the **Lectionary** is in place on the Ambo and that it is open to the correct reading. The reader should also check to see that the **Book of the Gospels** is in place at the back of the church with the page marker at the proper place.
- At least five minutes before Mass, the ministers meet and gather for prayer in the narthex.

RITUAL ACTION

- Readers take part in the entrance procession.
 - The first reader solemnly carries the Book of the Gospels, pausing in front of the altar, going around the altar and placing the Book on the altar.
 - The Book should be placed in the center of the altar, overhanging the front edge by a small amount.
- Both readers are seated in the Sanctuary on the two chairs beside the Ambo.
- Both readers return to seats in the congregation once the gospel acclamation begins.
 - The reader reading the Prayers of the Faithful should remain seated near the front and move to the Ambo as the Creed is finishing.
- The reader reading the Prayers of the Faithful should be moving to the Ambo as the Creed is finishing being read.
- Readers recess only if they are seated within the sanctuary.
 - Neither the Lectionary, nor the Book of Gospels is carried in recession.

SILENCE

- Each reader should pause momentarily before beginning the reading.
 - It is important for the first reader not speak while the assembly is settling.
- In order to enable the assembly to ponder and reflect on the Word proclaimed, a pause of **at least one minute** or more should be observed after each reading. A pause of 15 seconds should be observed after the psalm.
 - This should be an authentic silence.
- Remain in your place at the Ambo during the silence.

SOME USEFUL HINTS for Readers

- Readers begin to read by saying, "A reading from" It is inappropriate to add words such as: "The first reading..."
- The title of the reading such as "A reading from ..." and the ending, "The Word of the Lord", should be distinguished from the reading itself.
 - Observe a short pause after the former and before the latter phrase.
 - The actual text of the reading should begin on a new breath, with a different vocal inflection.
- It is preferred that the Responsorial Psalm is intoned, even on weekdays, but
 - If the Responsorial Psalm is recited, readers begin the recitation with the antiphon.
 - Announcing "Responsorial Psalm" is unnecessary.
- The Gospel Acclamation should always be intoned. If not sung it is normally omitted.
- You should not add any of your own words to the texts.
- While proclaiming the Word, you may hold the Lectionary in your hands, or rest your hand(s) on it. Anything that might distract from the proclaimed Word, such as leaning on the Ambo, hands in pockets, or shuffling from one foot to the other should be avoided.
- Never do anything to draw attention to yourself at anytime.
- The microphone should be adjusted for your height. Practice turning pages with the microphone in place as well. Ideally the tip should be parallel to the floor to avoid "popping" that will occur if you turn it upwards.
- The Lectionary should not be lifted off the Ambo while saying: "The Word of the Lord".
- Copies of "**Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers**" are available in the Sacristy and at the back of the church to help with your preparation.

The New Lectionary

- ***"The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has decreed that the Solemnity of Pentecost, 31 May 2009, is to be the date for official implementation of this Lectionary. As of that date, this will be the only English-language Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities permitted for liturgical use in Canada."*** (Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, CCCB Letter of Presentation)
- There are now options available to the priest celebrant concerning the readings.
- Any musician using a CBW for the psalms should verify that psalm is indeed the one to be used on that Sunday. The antiphons and verses to the psalms have been changed.