

EUCHARIST

OF MUTUAL RECONCILIATION

The sign of peace

Target Audience

Small groups.

All audiences and all ages

Intent of this Liturgy:

- ✓ *To stress the relevance of the 'rite of peace'*
- ✓ *To be aware that it's hypocrisy to offer peace to our neighbors at Mass when we are not at peace with our brothers and sisters at home or else where.*
- ✓ *To realize that the only way to secure God's forgiveness for our wrongs is none other than to forgive our brothers and sisters.*
- ✓ *To be conscious that our offerings, sacrifices, masses and prayers are not acceptable to God, unless forgive others from our hearts.*

Requirements

- Before the Mass, ask the participants to prepare some symbolic offerings of themselves, for instance: a drawing, a photo. Any object, whatever.
- Write a prayer of self-giving to be recited at the offertory at mass when they will offer their symbolic gifts.
- Get five participants to prepare in a dialogue form the Gospel passage for the day, namely, the parable of the Unforgiving Servant": Mt. 18/21-35. (*Five persons are wanted: namely: Narrator, Peter, Christ, Servant 1. Servant 2*)
- Secure a room or a place outside the chapel ready, where the participants at a proper time may sit in a circle on the ground or on chairs.
- Arrange the chapel and the altar in such a way as to permit the participants to sit in a close circle in front of the altar from the right and left side of the celebrant.
- Keep five copies of the N. T. ready for the readers.

Starting Procedure

- Welcome the participants in the Chapel or prayer room.
- They will sit down in a circle in front of the altar.
- They will keep their offerings on the ground just in front of them.
- The Celebrant will invite the participants to 'celebrate' with joy the Paschal Mystery, namely, Our Lord's Supper, Death and Resurrection.
- Create a happy and joyous atmosphere: Singing of hymns, clapping hands and playing of instruments to be encouraged.

Reading of Mathew:

The celebrant will forcefully read the passage: of Mt. 5/43-48. "Love your Enemies". Stress the words: of Mt. 5/23-24. "Leave your gift in front of the

alter....go out and get reconciled.....”

Homily

The Celebrant will give a short but forceful: homily.

We have come to celebrate the supper of Our Lord Jesus.

We have come to offer to God the Father the Sacrifice of Christ and ourselves too;

Our symbolic gifts are lying on the ground in front of us, reminding us of this.

Reflections

Have you forgiven and got reconciled with all your brothers and sisters? Both, those present here and to those absent somewhere? Those at home. All our neighbors?

Now, let us hear again Jesus speaking to us: (*Read the words of Mt. 5/23-24 and paraphrase them. Render them as if God were presently speaking to them, in the here and now, e.g. “*

- “Sisters, Boys, Girls, and Legionaries: Etc.... You are about to offer yourselves and your gifts to Me at the altar. If you now remember now that you have something against others and you have not yet forgiven them, not offer yourselves and your gifts to me”.
- Keep your gifts on the ground in front of my altar!.
- Go out of the church/chapel, and first get reconciled with your brothers and sisters.
- Then only, return to the Chapel/Church, if you want me to accept you and your gifts.”
- Now, stand up, and in silence, and leave the chapel/ church.

Going to the outside room for reconciliation.

All in silence will go to the room prepared before hand and sit down in a circle.

*The celebrant will remind them that their gifts are still lying on the ground in the Chapel or Church waiting to be offered to God. **Your r gifts , so to say. Keep telling you: “Quickly, soon get reconciled with your enemies first, then, come back and offer us to God”***

Reading of the Gospel:

The five appointed readers will read in dialogue form the parable of the “unforgiving Servant”. (Mt. 18/21-35).

The celebrant will remind the participants that : ***The only way to secure God’s forgiveness for our sins is to forgive our neighbors, our brothers and sisters from our hearts.***

Fantasy Exercise: The Celebrant or somebody else will lead the participants through a fantasy exercise on the forgiving of injuries.

Some hints for the Moderator:

Has anyone hurt you in the past? Remember. Visualize. What happened? Have you forgiven him/her?

Is there anyone you have not yet forgiven? Who? What? When? How? Why?

Any wounds not yet healed? Which?

Now imagine, that Christ crucified standing behind that person and is asking you:
“Forgive him/her as I have forgiven you! He/she did not know what he/she did.
 What’s your reply? Give Jesus an answer.

Prayer for the Gift of Forgiveness:

The Celebrant prays aloud for those present asking God our Father, to grant them the grace to be able to forgive
 He invites the participants to pray for one another that they may have courage to forgive one and all from their hearts.

Forgiving Others:

The participants are left alone for a while in silence in the presence of God. They are entreated to forgive from their hearts all those who hurt them in the past.

Singing Shalom:

Break the silence by singing Shalom. *(All together. Next, if possible, in rounders. You may choose some other suitable hymn)*

Sign of Peace:

As a sign that we have forgiven all and that here is true love in our hearts, let us go around and give each other any meaningful sign of peace f.i. Shaking hands,, hugging, embracing etc.

Procession back to the Chapel or Church:

After they got reconciled with one another, all will proceed the Chapel/ Church singing: “Peace is flowing like a River”, or any other suitable hymn.

Back in the Church or Chapel:

All sit again in their former places.

Now the celebrant invites them to make their offerings.

One by one will come up to the altar and make their symbolic offering while reciting their self-oblation prayer.

The Offering and the rest of the Liturgy follow as usual.

The Celebrant may choose the theme of the Mass and the readings for day, he deems most appropriate. .