



*“So shall my word be...
it shall not return to me empty.”*

Liturgy of the Word

Using a Celebration of the Word of God in a Catechetical Setting

Celebrations of the Word can be held in connection with catechetical sessions so that lessons will occur in the context of liturgical prayer. (see RCIA 81-89) These liturgies have as their main purpose:

1. To implant in listeners' hearts the Scriptural underpinnings of the truths of the faith
2. To make use of the signs, celebrations, prayers, and seasons of the liturgy

Liturgies of the Word must reflect the liturgical life of the Church. They should preserve all the gestures, the language, and the holy feasts of the Church's liturgy as the "envelope" for delivering the faith. Do not "rush" or consider these celebrations of the Word as "extras." These are proclamations of sacred Scripture that prepare hearts and minds for the teaching.

*“So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (ISAIAH 55:11)*

The readers and musicians participating in the Liturgy of the Word must be properly prepared. The structure of a Liturgy of the Word should follow generally this pattern:

Opening Song (stand)

Song should be appropriate to the doctrine taught.

First Reading (sit)

This should be taken from any of sacred Scripture except the Gospels.

Responsorial Psalm (sit)

This can be sung or recited, and should be done as a dialogue.

Gospel Reading (stand)

An acclamation precedes the proclamation of the Gospel.

The deacon or priest is the proper reader of the Gospel.

If a cleric is not available, the catechist for that session should read the Gospel.

Catechetical Instruction

The instruction must follow the proclamation of Scripture.

Concluding Prayer (sit or stand)

This may consist of a psalm, litany, or other prayer, and perhaps a sung hymn.

Proper responses are:

First Reading: Opening: “A reading from the book of...”

Closing: “The Word of the Lord”

All: “Thanks be to God”

Gospel Reading: Opening: “A reading from the holy Gospel according to...”

Closing: “The Gospel of the Lord”

All: “Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ”

This handout is provided courtesy of the Association for Catechumenal Ministry. It is taken from the "RCIA Leader's Manual", which is distributed by Liturgy Training Publications (LTP) (800) 933-1800