

LiturgyNotes – Supplement
Day of Remembrance: Sept. 16, 2005

Dear friends,

As you have heard, President Bush has asked that Friday, September 16 be observed as a national day of prayer and remembrance for Katrina's victims. Our Catholic tradition is rich in resources that we can bring to bear on such a tragedy. I am sending this “supplement” out with suggestions for your consideration, as well as with links for your use.

Blessings in your ministry of consolation,

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EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

September 16th is the feast of the martyrs Cyprian and Cornelius, an obligatory memorial. On such days, the norms allow for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, “in cases of serious need or pastoral advantage, at the discretion of the rector of the church or the priest celebrant” (*Ceremonial of Bishops*, Appendix III). Masses for the Dead “on receiving the news of a death” are also allowed (*ibid.*). Therefore, I would suggest two options for Masses on Friday:

Option 1: Masses for Various Needs and Occasions

In the Sacramentary (Missal): Section III – For Various Public Needs, #29 – For Refugees and Exiles, or #38B – For Any Need. Of the Prefaces for Weekdays in Ordinary Time I, V, and VI seem particularly appropriate. Alternatively, one could use the “Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions IV: Jesus, the Compassion of God.” This Eucharistic Prayer has its own, fixed preface.

Lectionary, Volume IV: Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, Section III – In Various Public Circumstances. Readings from chapters 22 (For Refugees and Exiles) or 25 (For Any Need) are appropriate.

For example, the following readings may be used:

- (1) From chapter 22: Hebrews 13:1-3, 14-16; Ps 121; Matt 25:31-46 or Luke 10:25-37
- (2) From chapter 25: Lamentations 3:17-26; Ps 123; Mark 4:35-41.

Option 2: Mass for the Dead

In the Sacramentary (Missal): Masses for the Dead #3 – Various Commemorations – C (For More than One Person). The prayers may also be taken from the section in the missal entitled “Various Prayers for the Dead” #11 A-C. In the *Order of Christian Funerals*, prayer #43 (for one who died accidentally or violently) may be rendered in the plural and used for the collect. Use one of the Prefaces for Christian Death (P77-81).
Lectionary: Readings would be taken from volume IV, Masses for the Dead, #1011-1016. There are over 1300 possible combinations of readings from the funeral lectionary (OT,

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Psalm, Gospel); over 25,000 if a second reading is added. To help narrow things down a bit, here are a few combinations that you may choose to use:

- (1) Matthew 25:1-13. Can be paired with Wisdom 4:7-15 or even Daniel 12:1-3. The focus here is on the suddenness of death. [If a second reading is desired, consider 1 Cor 15:51-57 or 1 Thess 4:13-18.]
- (2) Mark 15:33-39, 16-1-6 (shorter version, 15:33-39, suggested). Can be paired with Lamentations 3:17-26. The focus here is on feeling abandoned by God. [If a second reading is desired, consider Romans 5:5-11 or 5:17-21.]
- (3) Luke 7:11-17. The Wisdom readings (3:1-9 [or 3: 1-6, 9] and 4:7-15) and the reading from Isaiah (25:6a, 7-9) can be read as words of consolation; Lamentations 3:17-26 can be read as an echo of the widow's lament. [If a second reading is desired, the words of encouragement found in 2 Cor 4:14-5:1 or 5:1, 6-10.]

Given the importance of lament in this situation, I would use Psalms 25, 27, 42-3, 130, or 143 for the response.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

The *Office for the Dead* may be used for Morning and/or Evening Prayer. The prayer for the day may be taken from the *Order of Christian Funerals*—again, #43 is particularly appropriate. For public celebration of this liturgy, a longer reading (or readings) from the funeral lectionary (see above) may also be chosen.

WEB RESOURCES

President Bush's Proclamation: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/09/20050908-12.html>

Prayers from the U.S. Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/katrinaprayers.shtml>

Center for Liturgy (St. Louis University): <http://liturgy.slu.edu/katrinaprayer.html>

Creighton University: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer/hurricane-prayer.html>

Music Resources:

Oregon Catholic Press: <http://www.ocp.org/en/hurricane.php>

GIA Publications: http://www.giamusic.com/sacred_music/hurricane_relief.html

J. S. Paluch Company (intercessions): http://www.jspaluch.com/timely_intercessions.asp

Diocese of Joliet: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/prayersForVictimsOfHurricaneKatrina.asp>

Ecumenical Resources: <http://www.textweek.com/response/katrina.htm>