

St. Luke Fall Lector Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2011

Introduction: Father James welcomed the lectors and opened the meeting in prayer. He then led a discussion conveying Church teaching and his hopes regarding the lector ministry at ST. Luke.

I. Installation/Commissioning of Lectors:

Father James commented only people commissioned and/or installed are allowed to function as lectors. This is a particularly important ministry as the lector conveys God's word to the people. Given some inconsistency in this practice, he requested that Walter Linz identify a weekend to have all lectors commissioned before the congregation at all the Masses.

II. The importance of the first reading:

Father James stressed the importance of the first reading (Old Testament) stating that this sets the tone for the second reading and more importantly for the gospels. This needs to be read from the heart. He noted that the second reading sometimes does not **tie directly to the first reading and the gospel**. The purpose of the second reading is to a) relate what Jesus did in his ministry **via the ministries of the disciples**, b) express how that was interpreted by the disciples, and c) to give a lesson on what we are to do given a and b above.

III. Approach to the lector Ministry:

Father James encouraged all lectors to speak as a story teller. To speak as one who knows the story, believes the story, loves the story and wants everyone to hear it. (He also noted that if a person felt that they did not understand or agree with what they are to lector upon, they should call Walter Linz and be asked to switch to another week. No one should proclaim to the people of God what they themselves are not clear about or disagree. **Let the proclaimed words flow from the heart of the proclaimer**)

IV. New Roman Missal:

Father James relayed that the new Roman missal is not expected to affect the lector ministry. It is possible that in the future there will be another translation of the bible more closely aligned with the Latin vulgate.

V. Gestures and actions:

- a) Father James relayed that the lectern book is not to be lifted. There are not to be hand gestures.
- b) Lectors are not to say – “the first reading or the second reading”. Simply state – “A reading from ...”
- c) Lectors are strongly encouraged to pray with the Priest, Deacon and other ministers prior to Mass. This prayer will likely move to the day chapel. Lectors are at least to identify themselves to the Priest prior to Mass.
- d) All lectors should check the lectern prior to Mass. Ensure the book is open to the correct reading.
- e) A choir member is to sing the responsorial. If they are not present, the lector may be asked to also read the responsorial.
- f) In addition, if a Deacon is not present, the lector will be responsible for the prayer of the faithful. Coordination with the priest is essential.
- g) Appropriate attire is necessary which to date has not been a problem. No jeans, short skirts, bare shoulders and etc.

Finally, take your time at the ambo. No one is in a rush. Lectors proclaim the Word of God. It is OK to be amazed and project astonishment at such an incredible gift.

P.S. - Any issues, changes of schedule and etc. that cannot be resolved internally, please call Walter Linz who will help coordinate and find a replacement as needed.

Closing:

Father James again thanked everyone. He closed with a prayer.