

St. Peter Cathedral

Procedures for Lectors

(Prepared by Blaine Betts ~ February 2004)

Both Lectors

- Dress up.
- Arrive 20 minutes before the start of Mass. Find the other lector.
- Decide if you will approach the sanctuary together or separately, it's your choice.

Lector A

- Locate announcements in sacristy, review.
- Check platform microphone near altar, adjust for your use.
- Place open lectionary upon ambo, adjust microphone.
- Obtain name of celebrant (deacon and concelebrants.)
- Ask music director or cantor for name and number of opening hymn.
- Following prelude music, watch when processional group at rear of cathedral is ready, then move to platform microphone, deliver greeting, announcements, name of celebrant and opening hymn. Return to seat.
- Following Opening Prayer, move to ambo, proclaim First Reading.

- After Mass, return lectionary and announcement binder to sacristy.

Lector B

- Locate General Intercessions (a.k.a. Prayers of the Faithful, petitions) in sacristy. Review, place binder where you will be seated. (NOTE: If a deacon is present, he will perform this task.)
- Remove Book of the Gospels from locked drawer, check that ribbon is at proper page, take it with you to the Monsignor Cappo Gathering Room.
- Carry Book of Gospels in procession. You are the last lay person in procession, positioned in front of celebrant. (NOTE: If a deacon is present, he will perform this function.)
- Since you are carrying the Word of God, do not bow when others reverence the altar. Stand book upon altar, then bow, walk to seat.
- Following the Responsorial Psalm, proclaim the Second Reading.
- Near the end of the Profession of Faith, move to the ambo, deliver the General Intercessions.
- Following Mass, return Book of the Gospels and Intercessions binder to sacristy.

When only one lector is present: Pre-set Book of the Gospels on the altar before Mass.

When the Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself is speaking to his people. These words from the General Instruction of the Roman Missal set the challenge for us as lectors. A well prepared lector can enhance the celebration by a prayerful and powerful proclamation of the word of God. Our aim is to make scripture come alive, to touch and to move the whole assembly.

Additional Notes:

- Use silence. The most recent instructions we have received direct us to provide time for the faithful to prepare for and reflect upon each reading. Take your time in approaching the ambo and allow pauses during the readings, if appropriate, and after the readings so that the meaning can be internalized by the listeners.
- Openings and closings are ritualistic, all should follow the same form. Begin with ³A reading from Š² and end with ³The Word of the Lord² and ³Thanks be to God.² Do not say ³The second reading is from Š² or ³And this, my brothers and sisters is the Word of the Lord² for it calls attention to the lector and does not promote an enthusiastic ritualistic response from the assembly.
- Be involved with the text, do not be cold and distant. A certain degree of formality and restraint is necessary. It is also important

to have a strong energy level so that the voice is projected to the back of the cathedral and the words are given life.

- The Bible is a collection of stories, poetry, parables, allegories, hymns, and other forms of literature. Each requires different treatments. Request a *Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers* when one is next offered to you and read the Introduction as well as the notes that are prepared for each reading.

- Three study approaches are suggested when preparing a reading.
 1. Intellectual Approach: Understand the meaning of the text. The Bible was recorded by people of the Middle East centuries ago. It has been said that few in modern America really get it. ³Turn the other cheek² was perhaps not to be taken literally, but to show Jesus was asking his followers to make a big change. Use the workbook for guidance.
 2. Emotional Approach: Feel the text. Find the emotion, try to communicate this to the heart of each listener. Be restrained.
 3. Aesthetic Approach: Find the beauty of the text. Savor the ideas, the feelings, and the sounds of the words.

Prepare well and rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit!