

Suggestions for Celebrating Mission Liturgies

The Mass is the most important prayer we pray as Catholics, and so we welcome the celebration of mission to be incorporated into your Liturgies. The Mass is a great way for us to connect with one another as the Catholic family of our parish, our St. Cloud Diocese, as well as to focus on our call to connect with, be united with and help build up the Body of Christ as the one catholic family throughout the world! The Liturgy, being the “source and summit” of our faith, is a great way to both begin this call – by spreading that message through word, action and surroundings – and to complete it – by celebrating our unity already gained through the Eucharist. The celebration of the Eucharist is a celebration and recognition of who it is who unites us ALL to Himself.

Below are a few ideas as to how you can help prepare the Liturgy to more fully proclaim and celebrate this global unity and mission. Please feel free to contact the Mission Office if you have questions or for further ideas.

Scripture Readings

We recommend using the readings for that day, as *all* the Scriptures address GOD’s call to unity in diversity and using our gifts for the building up of the Kingdom, as well as the Gospel values of justice, sacrifice, hope, peace and love, and therefore any daily readings can fit well with the theme of mission. If, however, you feel the need for more mission-oriented Scriptures, please contact us at the Mission Office for a list of such readings.

Homily / Reflection

As stated above, the Scripture readings will most likely allow for mission reflection to be brought into the homily. Reflection on current events – locally, globally and ecclesially – also provide opportunity to help those present recognize the call for mission and reach out beyond themselves in the image of the Trinity and Christ’s love in our lives.

However, perhaps the best way to spread the message of our missionary call during the Liturgy is for parishioners to hear from others who have experienced first-hand the call, the need and the joy of being in mission! If you know of anyone in your parish, school, group or area who has had mission experience – be it long or short term – who you feel could share the message of mission at your liturgical celebration, please consider approaching the priest and asking him to invite this individual(s) to share a reflection following the homily. There is no substitute for this first-hand mission experience, and this sharing can really bring the Liturgy to life! Here are a few ideas of who to invite:

- Parishioners or those from your area who have participated in a Diocesan delegation to our partners in Kenya or Venezuela
- Those who have participated in a mission-immersion trip through the parish or another organization
- Those from your area who are themselves of another culture or work with another culture
- Returned long-term missionaries/global volunteers from your area
- Contact the Mission Office for a list of our Speakers Bureau members willing to share their experiences

Environment

The environment can add a lot to our Liturgies. Please consider how you might enhance the Worship environment for your Mass, as well as for the gathering space, to more-fully reflect the global unity we are celebrating. Some ideas include:

- Using cultural cloths (hanging banners, Altar or ambo cloths, priest vestments/stoles, etc.)
- Using cultural icons, figures or images (Our Lady of Czestochowa or Guadalupe, etc; black Christ; cultural statues or crosses; etc.)
- Include displays in the gathering space with things such as photos from other countries or mission trips, world maps, globes, sculptures of unity, mission documents or quotes, etc.

Songs

There are many Liturgical songs which express a message of mission and unity. We at the Mission Office have a list of mission-oriented song suggestions. Please contact us (or visit our website) for a copy of these song suggestions. Then take a look and consider using any of those which your parish, group and musicians are already familiar with to reiterate the message and prayer of our mission through song.

Petitions & Prayers

The Prayers of the Faithful are a great way to unite the congregation in prayer. Please consider also uniting your worshipers with others throughout the world by using petitions that address our global needs. The Mission Office offers a list of this type of petition for you to chose from for your Liturgy; contact us or visit our website to take a look at this list.

You may also consider having these prayers read in varying languages, or having the response to the Prayers of the Faithful be in another language, such as Spanish or Swahili.

Or if your parish has projection capabilities, consider having the LORD's Prayer up in another language while you pray it in English; or at the time of the Sign of Peace, have the word "Peace" projected in other languages. Contact us at the Mission Office for a list of these to share with your parishioners during your Liturgies.

Special Collection

Sometimes a parish or group will decide to take up a special collection at their mission Liturgy, or designate a special destination for their collection funds. If you choose to take this collection for a missionary or mission project, contact us at the Mission Office for more information and ideas about where funds are needed or how to get your donations there, or to let us know where you've already decided to offer your gifts. We love hearing about the generosity of the people of our St. Cloud Diocese!

Other

Let us know if you're still looking for other ideas, or if you've got ideas we haven't mentioned that you'd like us to share with others looking to celebrate a mission Liturgy!

POSSIBLE PETITIONS FOR MISSION LITURGIES

The Prayers of the Faithful are a great way to unite the congregation in prayer. Please consider also uniting your worshipers with others throughout the world by using any of these, or similar, petitions in your Liturgy. (Note: According to the GIRM (pg 58), petitions should include the following: 1. For the needs of the Church; 2. For public authorities and Salvation of the world; 3. For the oppressed, by any need; 4. For the local community)

For the Church:

For the Church, that all faith-filled people will find the courage and grace to live the Word of GOD and to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ to neighbors both near and far, *we pray to the LORD...R/*

For the Church, that all faith-filled people may experience unity of mind and spirit, and may strive to live-out this unity and work for the good of all GOD's creation, *we pray to the LORD...R/*

That our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, our bishop, John, and all church leaders will continue to proclaim Christ's love as they lead the Church in the world today, especially throughout the nations still struggling to hear Christ's Word amidst violence, poverty and oppression, *we pray to the Lord....R/*

For world leaders:

For leaders of government and public authorities, that they will imitate the LORD's love for justice in their words and deeds, *we pray to the LORD...R/*

For the leaders of governments and those in positions of authority, that they will be an example in their work for peace, justice and unity throughout the world, *we pray to the LORD...R/*

For the leaders of our country and others, that their decisions will respond to the needs of the poor and respect the dignity of all peoples, *we pray to the Lord....R/*

That all civil leaders, locally, nationally and globally, may be empowered with a renewed sense of dedication to reconciliation, peace and justice, and that we all may use our voices and hands as instruments of Christ's love, *we pray to the Lord....R/*

For the special needs of the world:

For the marginalized and oppressed, that through the love of their neighbors they will come to know peace and justice and the love of our LORD, *we pray to the LORD...R/*

For those whose needs keep them from recognizing the love of Christ, especially the marginalized, oppressed, impoverished and abandoned, that they may come to know and live in the love and justice of a world that reflects that of our GOD, *we pray to the LORD...R/*

That those who are suffering from the plagues of our world today, especially AIDS, hunger, war, lack-of water, lack-of education or health care, unjust labor practices, prejudice and civil or domestic abuse, may find the refuge they need in Christ and the people of His Church, *we pray to the Lord....R/*

That children throughout the world who suffer from poverty, poor education, lack of medical care, being orphaned, malnutrition and forced labor or military involvement, may find the comfort and the resources they need to grow into healthy and holy leaders in our church and world, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

For those who have left the comforts of their own home environment, especially all refugees who have left home in fear and in hope of finding the quality of life GOD wants for His children, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

That those who have answered the call to serve in mission may be blessed with safety in their ministry, and that we may offer them support and gratitude for their missionary witness, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

For people worldwide affected by HIV/AIDS, especially our brothers and sisters in Africa, that they may know the love of Christ through the care of our communities, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

We pray for peace in the world, that those experiencing physical and emotional violence may come to know the peace of Christ, and that all of us will strive to become peacemakers in our country, our homes and in our hearts, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

For an end to the violence instruction and oppressive tactics being taught at the former School of Americas, and for peace and reconciliation among those countries in our world who have suffered at the hands of violent oppressors, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

For the people of our partner dioceses of Homa Bay, Kenya and Maracay, Venezuela (as well as our parish connection with _____), that they may find healing from any sufferings and rejoicing from their many gifts, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

For our community:

For those of us gathered here today, that GOD might grant us unity of mind and spirit, to work for the good of all GOD's people and all creation, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

For those of us gathered today, that we may have the openness to hear our own call to serve, and may have the courage to follow Christ wherever He may lead, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

That we may achieve greater unity and solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world by sharing our material and spiritual gifts with those who are rich in faith, but lacking in resources, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

We pray that the Holy Spirit fill us with love, and allow us to embrace peace and walk in harmony with our brothers and sisters near and far, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

That each of us may find the courage and strength to advocate on behalf of the poor, marginalized and oppressed, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

That we may learn from the example of our Blessed Mother Mary, the Virgin of Guadalupe, to become living witnesses of Christ's love in our communities, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

For the people of the St. Cloud Diocese and of our partner Dioceses of Homa Bay, Kenya and Maracay, Venezuela (as well as our parish connection with _____), that we all may be strengthened as we continue to come together in Christ to share and proclaim the Reign of GOD to one another and our world, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

In gratitude for the members of our parish's social ministry committee/sister parish committee/mission group/peace and justice committee, that they may know our appreciation for their leadership and continue to be strengthened in the essential work they do, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

For those who have died:

For the members of our Mission groups, living and deceased, that they may be blessed in gratitude for their service to mission and that their mission spirit may be spread throughout their parishes, our Diocese and our world, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

That those who have died, especially those who have given their life in missionary service to our world, may arise with Christ and continue to live on in our hearts as a witness to our Baptismal call, *we pray to the Lord....R/.*

Song Suggestions for Mission, Multi-Cultural or Justice & Peace Liturgies

Song/Hymn Title	Composer	Resources	<i>Gathering*</i>	<i>Responsorial*</i>	<i>Prep. Of Gifts*</i>	<i>Communion*</i>	<i>Recessional*</i>	Memo
All Are Welcome	Marty Haugen	Seasonal Missalette (WLP) Music Issue (OCP) Gather Hymnals (GIA)	X					
All the Ends of the Earth	David Haas, Marty Haugen			X				
As a Fire is Meant for Burning	Ruth Duck	Ritual Song (GIA) Gather Hymnals (GIA)	X					
Bearers of Peace	Bernadette Farrell	Music Issue (OCP)			X		X	
Blest Are They	David Haas	Seasonal Missalette (WLP) Music Issue (OCP) Gather Hymnals (GIA) Celebrating the Eucharist (Lit Press)			X	X		
Bread for the World	Bernadette Farrell	Spirit & Song (OCP)				X		
Bread of Life	Bobby Fisher	Spirit & Song (OCP)				X		
Bring Forth the Kingdom	Marty Haugen	Gather Hymnals (GIA)		X			X	
Bumbalela				X				
Bwana Awabariki	Swahili folk song							Blessing Song
Called as Partners in Christ's Service	Jane Parker Huber		X				X	
Cantad al Senor								
Canticle of the Turning	Rory Cooney	Gather Hymnals (GIA)						
Christ, be our Light	Bernadette Farrell	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)	X					
City of GOD	Dan Schutte	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)					X	
Come to the River	Bob Hurd & Craig Kingsbury	Spirit & Song (OCP)		X				Sprinkling Rite
Envia Tu Espiritu	Bob Hurd	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)		X				
Find us Ready	Tom Booth	Spirit & Song (OCP)					X	
Gather Us In	Marty Haugen	Celebrating the Eucharist (Lit Press)	X					

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Pescador de Hombres / Lord, You have Come	Cesáreo Gabaráin	Spirit & Song (OCP)			X			
Power of Peace	Jesse Manibusan	Spirit & Song (OCP)					X	
Prayer for Peace	Sebastian Temple				X			
Prayer of St. Francis / Oracion de San Francisco	Sebastian Temple	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)			X			
Servant Song								
Send Out Your Spirit	Jesse Manibusan	Spirit & Song (OCP)		X				
Sing a New Church	Nettleton	Music Issue (OCP)	X				X	
Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo / We Are the Body of Christ	Jaime Cortez	Spirit and Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)			X	X		
Song of the Body of Christ	Adapted by David Haas	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)				X		
Taste And See	Various Composers/Version s	Seasonal Missalette (WLP) Music Issue (OCP) Gather Hymnals (GIA)				X		
Thanks Be to You		GIA			X			
The Call	Tom Franzak	Spirit & Song (OCP)			X			
The Cry of the Poor	John Foley, S.J.	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)		X				
The Servant Song	Richard Gillard	Seasonal Missalette (WLP) Music Issue (OCP) Gather Hymnals (GIA)			X			
The Summons	Scottish Tune, arranged by Bobby Fisher	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)			X	X		
There is a Light	Cyprian Consiglio	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)				X	X	
There is a Longing	Anne Quigley	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)		X				
They'll Know We Are Christians	Peter Scholtes	Seasonal Missalette (WLP) Music Issue (OCP) Gather Hymnals (GIA)					X	
This is My Song (O God of all the Nations)	Llyd Stone	Lorenz Publishing Co.						Great for Fourth of July

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To Be Your Bread Now	David Haas	GIA				X		
To Be Your Presence	Tune: Engleberg - Composer: Delores Dufner, OSB	Words Enclosed - Based on Mission Statement for the Diocese of Saint Cloud						
Ven al Banquete / Come to the Feast		Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)				X		
We Are Called	David Haas	Seasonal Missalette (WLP) Gather Hymnals (GIA) Music Issue (OCP)					X	
We Are Many Parts	Marty Haugen	GIA				X		
We Are Marching / Siyahamba	South African	Spirit & Song (OCP)	X				X	
We Are One Body	Dana Scallon	Spirit & Song (OCP)				X	X	
We Have been Told	David Haas	Music Issue (OCP)				X		
What is our service to be	Scot Crandal	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)					X	
Who Will Speak?	Marty Haugen	GIA			X			
With One Voice	Ricky Manalo	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)					X	
Wonderful Feast	Marty Haugen	Gather Hymnals (GIA)				X		
Your Words are Spirit and Life	Bernadette Farrel	Spirit & Song (OCP) Music Issue (OCP)		X				

* These are merely suggestions; please feel free to use the songs wherever you feel most appropriate in the Liturgy.

** There are many more very appropriate songs that share the message of mission, global solidarity, unity, justice & peace, etc.; please feel free to use them, and please let us know at the Mission Office if you have suggestions to add to this list so that we can share them with others throughout the Diocese. Thank You!