



YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Christ Present in the Congregation

Homily Starter Ideas

1. **Greatest Commandments in Mark - "Love God; Love neighbor"**
 - a. – in Mt 22:39 "the second is like it"
 - b. – in Lk 10:27, both commands are folded together into one "love God and your neighbor as yourself"
 - c. Loving God and Loving neighbor are two sides of same coin
 - d. Compare with Mt 25; see Christ in your neighbor
 - e. Encounter Christ in your neighbor; Encounter Christ in the Congregation
2. **The Congregation as the mystical Body of Christ**
 - a. Something is missing if I'm not present at Sunday Mass – Body is incomplete
 - b. Pilgrim journey is done in community, not alone (Road to Emmaus)
 - c. Praying with and for the deceased
3. **Liturgical Actions of the Congregation**
 - a. The necessity of the Congregation for liturgy
 - b. Call / Response (Congregation responds to invocations)
 - i. Responsorial Psalm as response to the OT reading
 - ii. Creed as response to the Liturgy of the Word as opened up in the homily
 - iii. Dismissal – response to our being sent forth
 - c. Joining the Angels and Saints in singing praise to God "Holy, Holy, Holy"
 - d. Being neighbor to each other, especially in Sign of Peace
 - e. "Full and Active Participation" (Sacrosanctum Concilium 14) – doesn't specifically mean ministerial roles for everyone, but full engagement by each person
 - f. "My sacrifice and yours ..." each person brings their own sacrifice
 - g. "I confess to almighty God and you my brothers and sisters ... and I ask Blessed Mary, all the angels and saints, and you my brothers and sisters to pray for me" – do I pray for my fellow congregants?
4. **Uncommon church courtesies**
 - a. Greeting pewmates
 - b. Making space for people
 - c. Welcoming and appreciating all God's children, especially noisy children, and people who sing loudly and off-key
5. **The Congregation being commissioned to continue Christ's mission "Ite Missa Est"**
 - a. Dismissal/Commissioning (Go forth!, Announce the gospel, Serve the Lord, Glorify the Lord by your Life, etc...)
 - b. "You are entering mission territory ..." signs as you leave parking lot
 - c. Eucharist = Service (Jn 13 – washing of feet)
 - d. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
 - e. St. Augustine: "You are what you eat" – Become the Body of Christ
 - f. Missionary Discipleship