



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