

Reflections for those in Liturgical (or other) Ministry

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When we are involved in liturgical ministry, be it as a Minister of the Word, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a Music Minister (choir member or director, organist, other instrumentalist, cantor or animator of the assembly's singing), Sacristan, Usher, Welcomer, Altar Server, Leader of the Liturgy of the Word with Children, etc., it is good to take some time out to think about our ministry.

With the Holy Spirit's guidance, let yourself embark on a journey into that inner place where God dwell's. Have a conversation with God about the gift of your ministry and the challenge it entails. Listen for what God is saying to you. Take time to ponder. By doing so, you will be taking a step into that boat with Jesus, just like the disciples when Jesus said to them, *"Come away to a deserted place by yourselves and rest a while"*. *For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.* (Mark 6:31)



Over the next pages there are three versions of reflection for you to choose from: a Theological Reflection, A Gospel Reflection – Linking Feelings/Emotions, and an Awareness Examen.

Theological Reflection

Taking time to ask ourselves significant questions regarding our ministry can help us to become more attentive to the gift of ministry.

Recall how God led you to be involved in the ministry that you are involved in?

What are the parts of this ministry that you find challenging? Why?

How do you experience God's presence amidst these challenges?

What are the fruits of this ministry? (For you and others)

Say a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of ministry, including the challenges and fruits it bears.

Gospel Reflection:

Linking Feelings/Emotions

Connecting our feelings with the feelings of people in the Gospel can lead to spiritual guidance. This connects us with the Gospel at a new and deeper level. The reading of the Gospel text becomes no longer just an event that happened to others 2000 years ago, but it becomes the reality of what we are experiencing now, making the Gospel active as we reflect.

How did you feel during your ministry today?

Is there a person in the Gospels, whom you can associate your feelings with?

Find the relevant Gospel passage. Sit with that Gospel; read it and take time to reflect. What may God be saying to you?

How did/do you see God at work in your experience today?

What prayer would you like to offer God, in relation to your ministry today?

Awareness Examen

The Awareness Examen below is based on the Ignatian Daily Awareness Examen. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, the minister follows the steps below, and in doing so, is called to see God at work in a way that maybe was not apparent at the time it occurred. In taking time to reflect we can see the glory of God shining and like Mary, we can 'ponder all these things in our hearts'.

***Thanks** - Give thanks to God for the graces, benefits and good things in your ministry today.*

***Help** - Ask the Holy Spirit to help discern your ministry with openness.*

***Review** - Review your ministry today, moment by moment, to see how God is working.*

***Respond** - Respond to what you felt or learnt during your ministry today.*

***Resolve** - Resolve with hope and grace to amend your ministry accordingly.*

Say the 'Our Father'.