
Liturgy Formation Pathway

Step 5: Ongoing formation for liturgical ministers

Reflection guide for liturgical ministers

The local community – parish or school – is the context for the most fundamental ongoing formation for liturgical ministers.

Ideally liturgical ministers gather a couple of times a year to reflect on their experience of ministry. They might meet in their ministry groups, or as a mixed group of ministers. Group members may take turns leading the reflection or a member of the parish/school leadership might be invited to do this. Pending the number of participants, such a reflection might take 60-90 minutes.

The following is offered as a guide for this reflection time. Other questions will emerge. Questions can be tailored to specific liturgical ministries.

Whoever facilitates the reflection can progress it through the various steps below ensuring most time is spent reflecting on the experience of liturgical ministry. It is better to reflect on a few questions at depth, than a lot of questions superficially. Silence is an important part of any reflection process.

Setting

Keep it simple. Gather around the word – perhaps the lectionary opened at the Gospel from the previous Sunday – with a candle.

Prayer

It is recommended that the prayer focus on the Gospel from the previous Sunday. Perhaps begin with some quiet music to settle people. Make the sign of the cross. Someone proclaims the Gospel. Silence follows.

Reflection on the Gospel

Christ himself spoke to the worshipping assembly in the proclamation of the Gospel last Sunday.

What did you hear?

How are you responding to this word so far this week?

Is this Gospel word revealing anything to you about your liturgical ministry? If so, what?

Reflection on the experience of liturgical ministry

Liturgical ministry is an act of service:

What gifts are essential for your ministry/service? Which of these is your strength? Which one do you want to work on?

What skills are essential for your ministry/service? Which of these is your strength? Which one do you want to work on?

Christ is present acting in and through the liturgy. What can you say about your sense that Christ is present and acts in and through you when you exercise your ministry?

What is it like to serve the worship of the community in this way?

What feelings does this ministry evoke in you?

How has your understanding of your ministry/service grown this year?

How is your ministry changing the way you worship as a member of the Assembly?

How is your liturgical ministry/service shaping your life as a life of service to God and neighbour?

How is liturgical ministry/service changing you?

What have you come to know about yourself through your liturgical ministry?

How is your liturgical ministry impacting on your relationship with God/Jesus?

How does it impact on your relationship with the community?

What have you learnt through your ministry?

How do you prepare for ministry? Each time? Over a year?

What faith formation have you undertaken this year? How has it impacted on your liturgical ministry?

Do you have any sense of how the community experiences and receives the service you offer in and through your liturgical ministry?

Do you feel called to continue in this liturgical ministry/service?

Concluding Prayer

This may take any form that suits the group, for example:

- Spontaneous prayer emerging from the reflection
- The collect from Sunday Mass
- A hymn – perhaps from Sunday Mass
- One of the Blessings from the Missal
- ...