

LECTOR TRAINING—ST. CHARLES

THREE PRECEPTS

1. Jesus was a lector (luke 4:17.”and went into the synagogue, according to His custom, on the Sabbath day, and He rose up to read)”
2. Vatican II teaches that priests “have as their primary duty the proclamation of the Gospel of GOD.”
3. Lectors (principal assistants to the priests in proclaiming the word Of GOD) must be carefully selected and properly trained.

- A. To be a good lector one must have preparation—that means you must read over your readings during the week get and understanding about what you are proclaiming some churches have workbook on readings available-learn how to pronounce words, names correctly. A greek orator was asked what the most important rule was for giving a good speech and he replied PREPARATION; when asked what was the second most important rule was again he replied PREPARATION; when asked what was the third most important rule he replied PREPARATION. So you can never prepare enough!
- B. Early arrival-25-30 minutes before mass begins. Learn the celebrant name if you have a visiting. Check microphone –that it is on and if batteries are good. There are 4 basic problem areas in the use of the microphone 1 the mike is off—2 it is pointed incorrectly—3 it is too close to the speaker—4 it is too far away from the speaker. Take time to adjust and if you’re the second reader remember to adjust to you.
- C. Voice –your voice my voice we are all different take time to go to the church and practice with someone to make sure you voice is heard even to the farthest part of the church. Pace yourself not to fast—no one will understand what you say and not to slow you will bore everyone. Do not just read –proclaim and look up at the people.
- D. Comportment---so important in how you carry yourself, head held high with eyes pointed forward especially when carrying the book it is to be held chest high in a vertical position. Walk naturally and always bow slightly at the tabernacle. Do not hang on to the lectern or lean on it. Dress is important it is not about I or me –GOD AND THE CONGREGATION ARE THE PRINCIPALS INVOLVED AND THEIR CONCERNS MUST BE GIVEN PRIORITY. ANYTHING THAT COMES BETWEEN THEM IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. SO DRESS ACCORDINGLY. RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MEN WEAR A SUIT, JACKET, SHIRT WITH A COLLAR AND TIE. JEANS AND SHORTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, NEITHER SPORTS SHIRTS OR TEES. PERSONAL HYGIENE IMPORTANT. WOMEN LECTORS, DRESSES, SKIRTS WITH BLOUSES AND PANTSUITS; NO SKIN TIGHT SLACKS JEANS PEEK-A-BOO BLOUSES BARE SHOULDERS, MINI-SKIRTS OR SKIRTS WITH REVEALING SLITS. HAIR WELL GROOMED. NO FLIP-FLOPS FOR MEN OR WOMEN, SNEAKERS SHOULD BE AVOIDED.