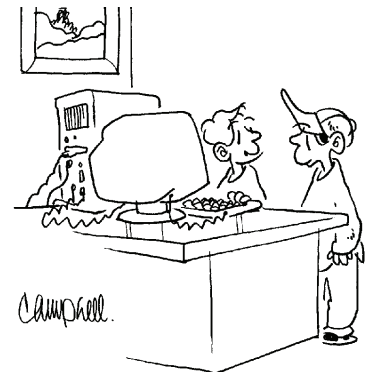


PRAYER OF A MINISTER OF THE WORD

(In Preparation)

Lord, invest me with your power
as I prepare to proclaim the marvel of your message
I have prepared my reading,
I have tried to take within me
the meaning of what I am about to proclaim.
Help me to proclaim, not just with my lips,
but with my whole heart and soul.
Lord, make me a hollow reed
so that your voice will be heard by all who hear me.
Free me of excessive concern over my performance.
Convert my feeling of nervousness and
turn all my apprehension into an energy
for proclaiming your word with power and authority.
May your Spirit live in me and
fill the holy word that I proclaim.

From the lectors of Our Lady, Star of the Sea Parish, Singapore



"Let's type in some Old Testament verses
and watch the spell-check go crazy."

Preparation, Preparation, Preparation

1. Pray

For yourself and your effort. Some commonly-used lector prayers include the following:

Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. (Psalm 51:15)

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. (Collect for Proper 28).

Pray for your listeners, as well:

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the LORD Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel. (Psalm 69:6).

2. Read ...

... your assigned reading: slowly and repeatedly. We use the *RSV*, *NLT* or the *ESV* translations.

... for extra credit (and understanding), read the Collect of the Day and the Gospel reading for purposes that will become clearer below. The Eucharistic Lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer will help you locate them.

Have a lot of time? Read the passages specified in the Lectionary for the weeks preceding and following the week of your assigned reading. Read the passages in the Bible that proceed and follow your assigned reading.

3. Practice

Read silently several times.

Underline the verbs.

Identify words with difficult pronunciations. Consult a guide to the pronunciation of Biblical words. Annotate your text.

Meditate on the main passage.

Read it all out loud.

Repeat as necessary.

4. Execute

Pray again.

Use eye contact, especially for introduction, first verse, and closing.

Project your voice.

Read slowly, but vary your pace and style, as necessary and appropriate.

Resources

† The Bible, RSV; ESV; or the NLT.

† The Book of Common Prayer, starting at page 887.

Internet savvy? Try:

† the Bible Gateway at www.biblegateway.com for the New Living Translation.

† Lectionary Page at www.satucket.com/lectionary. Make sure you click the RSV link.

Lector Procedures

1. In the absence of special circumstances, your commitment will be for the year. At the end of the year you may re-commit.
2. About every three months you will get a Reading Availability Sheet. Please make every effort to get it back to Virgie Finch right away.
3. After Virgie gets back the Reading Availability Sheets, you will get a Reading Schedule, a Rotation Directory and reminders & instructions in the mail or by e-mail. *If you will be absent on a Sunday that you are scheduled to read, it will be your responsibility to trade with another reader.* It is important that you notify Fr. Jerry at ctkspokane@msn.com or 838-1633 of any changes that you make.
4. Try to arrive at least 15-20 minutes before the beginning of the service. Let Fr. Jerry know you are present and reading for the service.
5. Choose a seat in our worship space that will allow you to move quickly to the lectern. You should be in place at the lectern when the Collect finishes. Although it may feel somewhat awkward to stand at the lectern without reading, *please wait until everyone is seated and reasonably quiet before you begin to read.*
6. Place your Scripture printout in the lectern before the service and leave it at the lectern at the conclusion of your reading.
7. On occasion, a reading may be changed from what is indicated in the Lectionary. Fr. Jerry will try to keep them to a minimum, but last minute changes and cancellations are a part of the ministry.
8. IMPORTANT: *We want to be uniform in our style.* Begin each reading with A READING FROM . . . then use the name of the book from the Reader Introduction Page you received from Fr. Jerry.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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Eight Quality Characteristics of a Healthy Church

Developed by Christian A. Schwarz

- 1. Empowering Leadership:** Pastors concentrate on empowering others for ministry, and lay people are not 'helpers' but fellow ministers.
- 2. Gift-Oriented Ministry:** People are able to identify their gifts and integrate them into appropriate ministries.
- 3. Passionate Spirituality:** Living committed lives and practicing our faith with enthusiasm.
- 4. Functional Structures:** Structures should promote an ongoing multiplication of ministries within the church.
- 5. Inspiring Worship Services:** Members come to church, not because it is the dutiful thing to do, but out of a sense of joy and anticipation. People sense God's presence in the midst of worship and they come to give praise, thanksgiving and adoration (*See Psalm 95*).
- 6. Holistic Small Groups:** Small groups which go beyond just discussing Bible passages to applying its message to daily life. In these small groups, members are able to bring up those issues and questions that are immediate personal concerns.
- 7. Need-Oriented Evangelism:** Evangelism grows out of a desire to meet people's real needs, not the "join our church" pressure we put on people.
- 8. Loving Relationships:** People do not want to hear about love, they want to experience it.

Continued ...

9. General Technique:

Speak more slowly than what seems normal. Listeners need time to hear and then to understand what is being read. Look for natural places to pause—at commas, end of sentences, between paragraphs or thoughts.

Stay strong to the end. Do not let your voice trail off as you come to the end of the reading.

Please end the reading with "THE WORD OF THE LORD." It is easy to forget how you begin and end the reading, so we suggest that you write these phrases down and take them to the lectern with you. Pause and look at the congregation before you say "The Word of the Lord." Join with them in saying "Thanks be to God" and then (and only then!) exit the lectern.

10. As a reader you are making a commitment to do your best, to practice, to know and understand what you are reading, to make frequent self-evaluations, and to continually look for ways to improve your reading.

May God bless you in your ministry to the Church.