

Practical Suggestions for Teaching from Scripture Celebrations of the Word

One way to teach from Scripture is to begin your lesson with Liturgy of the Word. When a Liturgy of the Word is celebrated outside the context of Mass, it should be done in the following way:

1. Begin with a hymn that is relevant to your topic. There is an index of hymns arranged according to topic in the back of most hymnals.
2. Only choose readings that are from Scripture. There should be two readings:
 - The first reading should be taken from the Old Testament or New Testament, not from the Gospels
 - The Second reading should be taken from one of the Gospels. If a deacon or priest is present he must read the Gospel; if not, the chief catechist must read it.
3. After the first reading there should be an opportunity for the students to respond, generally with a Psalm or a scriptural hymn. The response is an indispensable part of the Liturgy of the Word since it reflects the fact that Liturgy is always a dialogue between God and men and women; God speaks to them and they respond to Him (CCC 1153)
4. You may close the Liturgy of the Word with your teaching; you may not put it after the teaching.

Other important elements of the Liturgy of the Word:

- The focal point must be a sacred space with a clean Bible displayed and ready to be used.
- The Scriptures chosen should be the driving force of the doctrine that is being taught, not the readings from the Mass for the day.
- All reading is to be done from the Sacred Space and standing.
- The readings should be proclaimed by someone who has prepared for it.
- The students should be instructed to use proper liturgical gestures and responses, sitting for the first readings, standing for the Gospel, signing with the Sign of the Cross, saying "Thanks be to God," etc.
- Be sure to tell your students the Scripture readings afterward and use them.

Biblical Narratives

A biblical narrative is a technique for teaching from Scripture in which readings from the Bible are presented in a story format. In a biblical narrative, a variety of Scriptures on the same topic or theme are selected and then read one after the other. The citation is not said as they are read. The purpose of the Biblical narrative is to present as a story what the Word of God has to say about a particular topic. You may have one reader do all the readings, or have a different person do each of the readings. There is no set number of readings which must be used; however the catechist should take care not to make the narrative unreasonably long.

The following are two sample Biblical Narratives:

1. This selection of readings narrates Jesus' incremental revelation to Peter, The apostles and Peter's response of faith:
 1. Lk 5:1-11
 2. Mt 8:14-15
 3. Mt 8:23-27
 4. Mt 13:10-15
 5. Mt 14:13-21
 6. Mt 14:22-23
 7. Mt 15:29-31
 8. Mt 16:13-20
 9. Mt 16:21-23
 10. Mt 17:1-8
 11. Mt 26:26-30
 12. Mt 26:69-75
 13. Mt 28:1-10
2. These readings present the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit throughout salvation history:
 1. Genesis 1:2
 2. Genesis 2:7
 3. Ezekiel 36:25-27
 4. Joel 2:28-29
 5. Matt 1:18
 6. Mark 1:9-11
 7. Acts 1:8
 8. Acts 2:1-4
 9. Acts 2:38-39
 10. Rom 5:5
 11. Rom 8:15-16
 12. Rom 8:26
 13. 1 Cor 2:11-12
 14. 1 Cor 12:3
 15. 2 Cor 13:14

Memorizing Scripture

Another important way you can incorporate Scripture into your lesson is to have your students memorize important Bible passages. Some things which may be included are psalms, proverbs, the words of Christ, and passages from the New Testament epistles.