

Married Couples as Evangelizers

Be Doers of the Word

Environment: Place baskets on each table with strips of paper in each. Each piece of paper has a different verb printed in large print and the words "Be Doers of the Word" as a watermark.*

Gathering Hymn: The Summons (Gather 700) Sing two verses.

Presider: Jesus, you are the way, the truth and the life.
You summon us to be Doers of your Word.
We rejoice in your invitation to be your life for others.

Lector: A reading from the letter of James.

You must understand this, my beloved; let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but those who act – they will be blessed in their doing (1:19-25)

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist every Christian is called to participate actively and co-responsibly in the Church's mission of salvation in the world. Moreover, in those same sacraments, the Holy Spirit pours out gifts that make it possible for every Christian man and woman to assume different ministries and forms of service that complement one another and are for the good of all.

Everyone has a responsibility to answer the call to mission and to develop the gifts she or he has been given by sharing them in the family, the workplace, the civic community, and the parish or diocese. A parallel responsibility exists within the Church's leadership "to acknowledge and foster the ministries, the offices, and the roles of the lay faithful that find their foundation in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, indeed, for a good many of them in the sacrament of matrimony" (*Christifideles Laici*, no. 23).

(Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium, p. 19)

Reflection:

Presider: I invite each one present to choose a slip of paper from the basket. What is it that we are summoned to do in the name of the gospel? I ask each of you to tell us by creating a sentence using the word you have chosen from the basket. State your response with the words "Lord you call us to"

When all have responded the presider gives a 2-3 sentence reflection. Then continues with the responsorial prayer.

Responsorial Prayer:

Jesus, Power of God, you call us to be Doers of your Word. You call us to be your hands and voice in our world each day. Hear these prayers which we lift up to you this morning.

That your church might grow in a spirit of collaboration and welcome we pray to you....

Response: JESUS OUR HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

That your Word might guide our steps and inspire our deeds, we pray to you....

Response: JESUS OUR HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

That we might be more aware of your gifts and better stewards of our resources, we pray to you....

Response: JESUS OUR HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

That we might help believers see their own role in the mission of your Church, we pray to you....

Response: JESUS OUR HOPE, HEAR OUR PRAYER

We rejoice in you Jesus our Redeemer. You are the Word Incarnate. Inspire us, who aspire to be your disciples to follow you more faithfully and to help others come to see how they too share in the work of the gospel. We lift these prayers to you and in your name. Amen.

Concluding Hymn: The Summons (Gather 700)

3rd verse women

4th verse men

5th verse all

Action Words for Mission

hope

persevere

pray

teach

console

lead

follow

guide

search

trust

choose

plant

preach

challenge

design

feed

inspire

call

baptize

initiate

share

organize

proclaim

listen