



# Gather Faithfully

## Inviting Teens into Liturgical Ministries

Participant's Booklet

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# Introduction

## The Body of Christ Serves the Body of Christ to Become the Body of Christ

### Thank You!

You have said yes to becoming a liturgical minister and the Church, the Body of Christ, thanks you. You could be doing countless other activities, but you have chosen to take up this book, *Gather Faithfully*, and serve at the source and summit of our life as Catholics: the Eucharistic liturgy.

The Church thanks you because you are not waiting until you are older to serve the Church. You are doing it now. Thank you for recognizing that the Church needs you. You are a real member of the Body of Christ, not a provisional member. You have gifts, talents, skills, and passions that the Church desperately needs. If you are going to be in front of the whole congregation as a cantor, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, altar server, or reader; you are going to shine and show forth God's light in your life. If you are going to be a sacristan or hospitality minister, you will use your gifts to create an atmosphere that says to people that they are home.

The Church thanks you because you also see that you need the Church. Entertainment is everywhere. You could spend your free time in any number of ways, but you have recognized that there is a hunger in the life of every person, adult and teenager, that can only be satisfied by God. You do need the Church to encounter Jesus in the Eucharistic liturgy: in the peo-

ple, the word, the priest, and, beyond all else, in the Eucharist itself. All involved in this book pray that these training sessions will be more than “how-tos.” Rather, they will become a door through which you enter that leads you to an intimate relationship with the lover of your soul: Jesus Christ.

## Using This Book

This book has two purposes. The first purpose is to aid in training you to serve as a minister during the Eucharistic liturgy. Each ministry has three sessions. The first two sessions are meant to shape your heart and form your mind. Serving at the Eucharistic liturgy is not just about doing the right things at the right time. Liturgical service flows from a life that seeks to understand more and seeks to love more, both God and others. The first two sessions are designed to help shape your heart and mind as a minister. The third session addresses the practical. A liturgical minister should approach service with confidence. This confidence comes from being comfortable in one’s role. The final session will provide you with the formation of your skills to serve well.

The second purpose of the book goes beyond the training sessions. This book will also help you in your preparation to serve. Take notes. Write comments. Mark up the book in a way that will help you to serve well. Let it be your reference point as you serve. Also, turn to this book to help you spiritually prepare for your ministry and prayerfully reflect on your ministry after you have served. The last two sections of this book will help guide you through this preparation and reflection.

Finally, everyone involved with this book has one thought for you that has been expressed by Saint Paul:

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

(Ephesians 3:18–19)



# Ministry of Reader

## Session 1

### The Bible

The Bible is a collection of books. It is like having a personal library of faith. In the Bible are the stories of how God is present in human history. In order to become a good reader, it is crucial that you understand what you are reading. This sheet will give you a few tools to help you enter the scriptural passage and discover its meaning.

### Understanding the Passage

1. Read the passage from start to finish to yourself. Then write your reflections to the following questions:

Did you discover any words that were foreign to you or words you did not understand? If you did, look them up in a dictionary and write their meaning below:

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Did you discover words you did not know how to pronounce? If so, look them up and write them in a way that will help you pronounce them.

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What type of writing is it?

- a poem
- a story
- a prophecy
- a letter of praise
- a letter of correction
- a letter of explanation
- a list of names

What are your first thoughts or feelings about the passage?

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What is this passage all about?

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2. Now that you are more familiar with the passage, summarize the passage in no more than three sentences.

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3. Allow each person to read the reading silently and then aloud. When others read the reading aloud did it make sense to you?

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Could you follow your own reading as you read it aloud? (If not, read it again but remember that when you read, you are trying to help your listeners understand the passage.)

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## Session 2

### Tone of Voice Conveys Meaning

When we speak with one another, our tone of voice conveys powerful meaning. So, too, with the proclamation of the word of God. Our voice assists the congregation with understanding the proclaimed word.



# Acknowledgments

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The prayers, devotions, beliefs, and practices contained herein have been verified against authoritative sources.

The excerpt on page 17 is from "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium* Solemnly Promulgated by His Holiness," number 11, at [www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vatii\\_const\\_19631204\\_sacrosanctum-concilium\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vatii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html), accessed September 1, 2005.

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