

## Celebrations of the Word of God

- 81 During the period of the catechumenate there should be celebrations of the word of God that accord with the liturgical season and that contribute to the instruction of the catechumens and the needs of the community. These celebrations of the word are: first, celebrations held specially for the catechumens; second, participation in the liturgy of the word at the Sunday Mass; third, celebrations held in connection with catechetical instruction.
- 82 The special celebrations of the word of God arranged for the benefit of the catechumens have as their main purpose:
- 1 to implant in their hearts the teachings they are receiving: for example, the morality characteristic of the New Testament, the forgiving of injuries and insults, a sense of sin and repentance, the duties Christians must carry out in the world;
  - 2 to give them instruction and experience in the different aspects and ways of prayer;
  - 3 to explain to them the signs, celebrations, and seasons of the liturgy;
  - 4 to prepare them gradually to enter the worship assembly of the entire community.
- 83 From the very beginning of the period of the catechumenate the catechumens should be taught to keep holy the Lord's Day.
- 1 Care should be taken that some of the special celebrations of the word just mentioned (no. 82) are held on Sunday, so that the catechumens will become accustomed to taking an active and practiced part in these celebrations.
  - 2 Gradually the catechumens should be admitted to the first part of the celebration of the Sunday Mass. After the liturgy of the word they should, if possible, be dismissed, but an intention for them is included in the general intercessions.
- 84 Celebrations of the word may also be held in connection with catechetical or instructional meetings of the catechumens, so that these will occur in a context of prayer.

### Model for a Celebration of the Word of God

- 85 For the celebrations of the word of God that are held especially for the benefit of the catechumens (see no. 82), the following structure (nos. 86-89) may be used as a model.
- 86 SONG: An appropriate song may be sung to open the celebration.
- 87 READINGS AND RESPONSORIAL PSALMS: One or more readings from Scripture, chosen for their relevance to the formation of the catechumens, are proclaimed by a baptized member of the community. A sung responsorial psalm should ordinarily follow each reading.
- 88 HOMILY: A brief homily that explains and applies the readings should be given.

**89 CONCLUDING RITES:** The celebration of the word may conclude with a minor exorcism (no. 94) or with a blessing of the catechumens (no. 97). When the minor exorcism is used, it may be followed by one of the blessings (no. 97) or, on occasion, by the rite of anointing (nos. 102-103). \*

• Celebrations of the word that are held in connection with instructional sessions may include, along with an appropriate reading, a minor exorcism (no. 94) or a blessing of the catechumens (no. 97). When the minor exorcism is used, it may be followed by one of the blessings (no. 97) or, on occasion, by the rite of anointing (nos. 102-103).

The meetings of the catechumens after the liturgy of the word of the Sunday Mass may also include a minor exorcism (no. 94) or a blessing (no. 97). Likewise, when the minor exorcism is used, it may be followed by one of the blessings (no. 97) or, on occasion, by the rite of anointing (nos. 102-103).