



St Bernadette Roman Catholic Parish
Letter of Instruction
For
YOUTH LECTOR GUIDELINES

Effective Date: 3 December 2010

#1: PREPARING

(This is what I do. If you want to adopt any of these suggestions, please feel free to do so. ~ *David Riggs*~)

Remember : You stand out - you are special - people recognize you. You have the honor and the privilege of proclaiming the Word of God. People look up to you. Very few people have the intestinal fortitude to stand up in front of hundreds of people and proclaim the Word!

PREPARING

Habit : Even if you are not scheduled to proclaim the following Sunday, read the 3 readings for next Sunday at morning or evening prayers or both. It only takes a few minutes. You will:

- learn what the next Sunday is about;
- be ready in case you are needed;
- understand the readings better when scheduled Lector proclaims.

Work with your parents. Read it though several times to become familiar with the passage.

Read the notes in the Work Book. Read Chapters in Bible before and after your passage.

Decide what type of reading (poetry, narrative, prayer, etc.) - Different kinds of passages require different kinds of delivery.

Make the necessary markings for pauses, emphasis, etc.

Do it different ways.

Read the passage out loud to a parent or sibling or other willing listener! Read it just before you fall asleep.

If possible record it. Listen to it (at home & in the car). Listen to a recording just before you fall asleep.

Memorize key parts - it will help with eye contact and emphasis of important points.

See where you can improve on your delivery. Enunciate - pronounce the words clearly. Do not drop your voice at end of a phrase or sentence - practice this with parents.

Your aim is to "own" the passage.

#2: DELIVERING

On the way to church. Listen to recording if made. Warm up your voice by singing.

1. You **MUST** arrive **at least** 15~20 minutes before the Mass start time. It is unfair to the Sacristan to wonder if you are going to show up and then have to scramble to find an alternate Lector.
2. Sign in. Greet other Lector. Confirm who is doing which reading.
3. Go to book. Find place. Memorize page number. Read passage couple of times (sometimes you may find that you have prepared the wrong passage. Don't panic! You have time to, at least, read the passage several times.)
4. Find out if there is Deacon. If there is no Deacon, the division of tasks is as follows: Lector 1 carries in the Book & Lector 2 does the Prayers of the Faithful. (Lector 2 always does Announcements before Mass.)
5. Find a seat. Sit, pray, compose yourself. Do not visit with friends, do that after Mass. Warm up your voice - sing the Opening Hymn; Gloria; Psalm.
6. When it is your turn to proclaim, (First Lector after "Let us Pray" after the Gloria or after CLOW if there is one) (2nd Lector after the Psalm), proceed to the center of the altar and bow your head, not full bow. Then go to Ambo. Do the same bowing, after proclaiming, on the way back to your seat.

REMEMBER: You are not "reading" the Word, you are "**PROCLAIMING**" the Word. It is not same as speaking or reading voice - raise your voice, but do not shout. You need to project - hearing-impaired people will thank you; parts of the church hall have better reception than others.

PAUSE! (After "A Reading from.....")

[REMEMBER: Say "Uh" reading from NOT "Ay" (as in "hay.")]

PAUSE! (During proclamation, where appropriate)

PAUSE! (Before saying 'The Word of the Lord')

PAUSE! It may seem a long time to you, but it is not! Most Lectors proclaim too quickly.

SLOW DOWN!! : Not only with shorter passages; It gives you an opportunity to make eye contact; It makes it easier for people to hear you and understand the words.