



National Bible Week

Checklist: Assess the Role of the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Parish

Here is a checklist that pastors, pastoral councils, principals, and parish catechetical leaders can use to examine the role that the Word of God plays in the life and mission of the parish community.

Liturgy

1. Are all the biblical readings and the responsorial psalm proclaimed from the ambo?
2. Do parish lectors receive sufficient training to allow them to proclaim the readings meaningfully and clearly?
3. Are the parish lectors encouraged to make regular meditation on and study of Scripture an essential part of their spiritual lives?
4. Are the Scripture readings and Psalms always read from the approved liturgical books without change?
5. Does the parish have a *Book of the Gospels*?
6. Is there a Gospel procession on at least the more important liturgical days?
7. Are the *Book of the Gospels* and the *Lectionary* in good repair and treated with reverence?
8. Do the major language groups in the parish have access to the Scriptures in their native languages?
9. Do the church acoustics allow everyone in the church to hear the Word of God proclaimed clearly?
10. Is well-prepared preaching on the Word of God and the mysteries of the faith a priority for the priests and deacons in the parish?
11. Do the members of the parish have access to the daily readings citations (through a calendar, the parish bulletin, the parish Web site, etc.) to allow them to read and reflect on the readings outside of Mass? How are they encouraged to read and pray these readings?
12. Does the parish celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours, especially Morning and Evening Prayer?
13. Is Scripture an essential part of every liturgy celebrated in the parish, including Baptisms, individual celebration of Penance, and blessings of persons and objects?

Faith Formation

1. Is the study of Scripture an essential part of faith formation at all levels in the parish?
2. Are people taught to always treat the Bible with reverence and respect?
3. Do faith formation sessions include reading from and study of Scripture related to the topics at hand?
4. Are parishioners of all ages encouraged to bring Bibles to faith formation sessions and use them?
5. Is formation provided about the nature of divine Revelation in Scripture and Tradition?
6. Is formation offered regarding Catholic principles of biblical interpretation?
7. Is Scripture included in sacramental preparation programs, including marriage preparation?
8. Does the parish offer a variety of Bible-study opportunities?
9. Does the parish have a mechanism (through the bulletin, parish Web site, classes, etc.) for sharing facts about the Bible with parishioners?
10. Does the parish offer instruction in praying with Scripture, especially the *Lectio Divina* style of reflection and prayer?

Catholic School

1. Are there Bibles in the school classrooms? Are there enough so that each student can use a Bible? Are they kept in good condition?
2. Are students taught to always treat the Bible with reverence and respect?
3. Is a Bible enthroned in each classroom and/or in a central area in the school? Is this Bible used regularly in prayer?
4. Is reading the Bible encouraged through announcements, teachers' example, letters to parents, and the like?
5. Does the school celebrate periodic Liturgies of the Word or Bible vigils?
6. Is prayer with Scripture a regular practice in the school?

Families

1. Are families encouraged to have at least one Bible in their home?
2. Does the parish offer families an opportunity to purchase Catholic family Bibles?
3. Are families taught to always treat the Bible with reverence and respect?
4. Does the parish encourage families to enthrone the Bible in their home and to make Bible reading part of their family prayer?
5. Does the parish suggest that parents read and discuss Bible stories with their children?

Youth Ministry

1. Is reading from Scripture part of every youth gathering?
2. Are young people taught to always treat the Bible with reverence and respect?
3. Are young people offered opportunities to learn how to read and interpret Scripture?
4. Are young people encouraged to own and read their own copies of the Bible, underlining passages and highlighting verses meaningful to them?
5. Are young people instructed in the various ways of praying with Scripture?

Parish Activities

1. Do all parish meetings begin with prayer? Does this prayer include Scripture?
2. Do all parish organizations have an opportunity to discuss the scriptural basis of their work?
3. Do parish organizations, especially the leaders, spend time reflecting on how the Word of God enlightens their work in service of the Church's mission?
4. Are members of each organization encouraged to read Scripture privately and to be people of prayer?