

ENTRHONIZATION OF THE BIBLE

As a Take-off for any Event of Spiritual Nature.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ *Make a profuse use of the Bible in Retreats, Recollections, Prayer Groups and similar events.*
- ✓ *Encourage the participants to grow in the love for the Word of God and in the knowledge of the Scriptures. Help them realize the relevance of the Holy Scriptures for our daily living.*
- ✓ *For that, begin with the Para-liturgical Ceremony of **the Enthronization of the Bible.***
- ✓ *The participants should bring with them a copy of the New Testament, if not possible, the Moderator will keep copies of the New Testament for all.*

REQUIREMENTS:

1. A Chapel or Prayer Room. If not available, condition a classroom or Hall to create an atmosphere of recollection and prayer.
2. A table properly decorated to be placed at the center of the Chapel or Prayer room.
3. A big size Bible will be kept on a stand in the table.
4. Two candles or divas and, if possible, a censer.

PROCEDURE:

Step 1. Introduction. Welcoming.

Meet the participants outside the Chapel or prayer Hall.

Sing Hymns and/or bhajans.

Opening prayer.

Step 2. A short Input “Dead and Alive Letters”

A. There are Dead Communications. Dead Words. Dead Letters.

A dead communication would be, for instance, my reading a letter that a loving mother, many years ago, wrote to her son on the occasion of Dad’s death. That letter may be a wonderful letter, very inspiring and full of feeling. Yet it does not touch me much. It was written, long ago by a mother – who is no alive any more alive – to her son, who is presently dead. *(The moderator may reconstruct or invent what was written in that letter and the touchy feelings expressed in it).*

While reading that letter, I may admire it, and enjoy it. I may say: ‘It’s just a masterpiece of writing. What a wonderful letter! How well she wrote It.’ etc. However, that is a dead letter, I may admire it, but it does not deeply touch my heart. **That letter to me would be a dead communication,**

B. There are Alive Communications. Alive Words and Alive Letters

Now, imagine that it is my mother's letter. She is writing to me, her son, who am alive, of my beloved dad's death!

Will the fact that my mother and I her son are alive, make any difference in the way the letter touches me and affects me?

1. How will I feel now while reading it?
2. Shall I react reading my mom's letter as I did whilst reading the first letter?"
3. Would I say now "Oh, what lovely letter my Mom has written to me? It's so beautifully! I did not know that Mom could write such beautiful letters!?"
4. Will I not rather, feel sad and cry?
5. Will I not, however far I may be from home, run home and meet my Mom?

Yes, this second letter **is an alive letter, a living communication.**
This letter, is alive, it's throbbing with life.

C. The Word of God in the Bible is an Alive Communication , an Alive Letter from the Living God to Us , his Living Sons or Daughters

This being so, I should react to the Word of God, emotionally, strongly and actively **In the Sacred Scriptures, the WORD OF GOD IS SPOKEN TO ME DIRECTLY IN MY HERE AND NOW!** I cannot but, be moved, touched and affected by it.

We cannot think the Scriptures just as some old communications God gave to some ancient people of old, already dead and gone!

Read now Mt 5/21 626 - Teaching about anger and forgiveness – (*Read it very emphatically in the present tense and directed to the audience*).

You may read also Mt. 25/31-46 (The Last Judgment – (*Read it very emphatically in the present tense and directed to the audience*)).

Step 3: Explain the Meaning of the Ceremony we are about to Have

- ✓ We shall enthrone or install the Bible in our midst, in the Chapel
- ✓ We want to give the Bible the place of honor.
- ✓ We want the Bible to guide us and speak to us throughout these coming days.
- ✓ The Bible in our midst will remind us that "God Keeps Speaking to Us"

Step: 4 Processionally Move into to the Chapel.

- Singing hymns proceed to the Chapel.
- In the Chapel, stand in a circle or a semi-circle around the Bible
- Light the candles or divas.
- Explain the symbolism of lightening the candles or divas. The Word of God is light to our minds and warmth to our hearts.

Step 5. Enthronization Ceremony

Readings

Beforehand, get some participants to prepare the following readings:

1st Reading: 1 Peter 1/10-12. Paraphrase it and pray on it.

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 1/19-21. Paraphrase it and pray on it.

Hymn Singing:

Incensing the Bible:

Honouring the Word of God: *(Instructions to the participants)*

- ✓ One by one, kindly come forward
- ✓ Bow in reverence before the Bible, the Living Word of God
- ✓ Kiss the Bible placed on the table
- ✓ Take a copy of the Bible or N. T. kept on the table to be used during the sessions.
- ✓ Kiss that copy and reverently take it with you.

Step 6 Personal Reading the Word of God.*(Instructions to the participants)*

- ✓ Open the Bible or N. T. at random and read the first lines you stumble upon.
- ✓ What message has God for you in this passage?
- ✓ Reflect and pray for a short while.

Step 10: Final Blessing and Hymn.

Bless the participants with the book of the Bible

Close with a hymn of praise.