

Dear Padre,

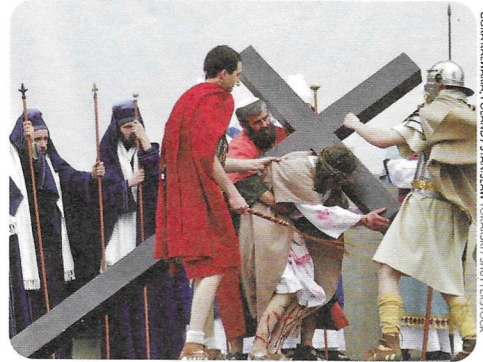
What are the guidelines for producing a passion play? My pastor said there are special guidelines to follow. What are they?

Please read "Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion," issued in 1988 by the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of what was then called the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (The document is located at uscbb.org)

Passion plays should emphasize the saving action of Christ's death and resurrection without becoming stumbling blocks to understanding the role of the Jewish people in salvation history. The document warns that "'stock ideas,' unfortunately, can become vividly alive in passion dramatizations. It is all too easy...to resort to artificial oppositions...to heighten interest or provide sharp contrasts between the characters." We must avoid portraying the Jewish tradition as "a religion of only justice, fear, and legalism with no appeal to the love of God and neighbor."

It is simplistic and incorrect to blame Christ's death on certain historical groups and neglect the complexities of the Gospel portrait and of Christ's life. Christ freely undertook his passion and death because of the sins of all, so that all might attain salvation. This is the truth that passion plays should strive to communicate most clearly. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



GORJA KALWARNA, POLAND / STANISLAW TOKASIK / SHUTTERSTOCK

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 26	February 27	February 28	February 29	March 1	March 2	March 3
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: "Listen to Jesus!" The Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. "Listen to Jesus!" Don't forget.

ANGELUS, MARCH 16, 2014