



Ideas for Celebrating Lay Ministry Sunday and Lay Leadership in Parishes and the Diocese – February 26, 2017

- Call forward **all** lay persons in ministry or who serve as volunteers in the parish – not just those who completed the Lay Ministry Program – for a special recommitment ceremony (see enclosure). After Mass, host a light reception in their honor.
- Center the homily on the laity being agents of the new evangelization by helping to build the kingdom of God as lay leaders / volunteers, their dedication and value to the parish, their resourcefulness and willingness to share their gifts – encouraging others to follow their example.
- Include intercessions for lay ministry in the Prayer of the Faithful – see suggestions.
- Print the Lay Ministry Program inquiry flyer and enclose it in all the bulletins for Lay Ministry Sunday. In the bulletin that Sunday, have a paragraph naming the parish's commissioned lay pastoral leaders and current participants in the program. Have one of them write or speak about their ministry experience or the growth their faith experienced through participation in the Lay Ministry Program. On that Sunday and the following Sundays include a paragraph telling those interested in the program about the Information Sessions, where the new class sites will be located and to contact the pastor/administrator for more information.
- Organize a group of persons to attend the diocesan Lay Ministry Conference on Saturday, Sunday on February 25 at St. Andrew Avellino Parish in Flushing beginning at 10:00 AM. See enclosed flyer for full information. Advertise in parish bulletin.
- Take stock of what needs you have in the parish and put "Wanted" ads in the bulletin asking for people to step forward to train for filling those specific areas of ministry.
- Hold a ministry fair in connection with the celebration of Lay Ministry Sunday.
- Consider sending a press release to your local newspaper regarding the fact that your parish will be celebrating Lay Ministry Sunday.
- Use diocesan resources to encourage ongoing formation among your lay leaders and adult faith formation among your parishioners. These resources are available through www.meetmein.church and the School of Evangelization's online catalogue and registration system (www.bqonlineformation.org).

