



## Ideas for Celebrating Lay Ministry Sunday and Lay Leadership in Parishes and the Diocese

- 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 blessing on them and the work they do. After Mass, host a light reception in their honor.
- Center the homily on the laity being good stewards 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.
- 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 involved in lay ministry to attend the diocesan celebration of Lay Ministry Sunday on March 2 at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Forest Hills beginning at 4:30. This event will include solemn evening vespers celebrated by Bishop Octavio Cisneros and Dr. Frank Villaronga, Chairperson of the National Association for Lay Ministry and Director of Evangelization and Ministry Formation for the Diocese of Charlotte, who will deliver a bilingual (English and Spanish) presentation relating the role of the laity in serving the mission for a new evangelization. A light reception will follow.
- Include some of the above information in a pulpit announcement on Lay Ministry Sunday and for several weeks following.
- 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.