



Ideas for Celebrating Lay Ministry Sunday and Lay Leadership in Parishes

February 7, 2016

- Call forward during Mass **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 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. The readings for this particular Sunday are very apropos.
- Include intercessions for lay ministry in the Prayer of the Faithful – see suggestions.
- In the bulletin that Sunday, have a paragraph naming the parish’s commissioned lay pastoral leaders and current participants in the Lay Ministry 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.
- 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. **This would be a particularly good time to begin recruiting persons to serve as small group leaders for Renew International’s Arise program.**
- Hold a ministry fair in connection with the celebration of Lay Ministry Sunday.
- Use the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as an opportunity to highlight the “mercy” ministries in your parish – homeless shelter, St. Vincent DePaul Society, bereavement, care of the sick and homebound etc. – and those who serve.
- 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).
- Consider sending a press release to your local newspaper regarding the fact that your parish will be celebrating Lay Ministry Sunday.



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