



Lay Ministry Sunday: In Your Parish and Diocese

Promotional Packet Courtesy of the Advocacy Committee for National Association of Lay Ministry

Mission Statement

The National Association for Lay Ministry is a professional organization that supports, educates and advocates for lay ministers and promotes the development of lay ministry in the Catholic Church.

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INTRODUCTION

Lay Ministry Sunday is an event we encourage your parish & Diocese to celebrate. It's an opportunity to recognize the Lay minister's service to the Church, & offer them support. This celebration will raise awareness to the role of Lay ministers & how they contribute to the vibrant life of the parish community while inspiring them to discern joining them.

We have put together a package to assist you in making this celebration an annual event with limited effort on your part and unending rewards. You may consider scheduling this event on a particular anniversary of a Lay Minister, a special Feast day or a time of year that works best for your parish or Diocese.

Below you will find a list of resources we have provided to get you started.

- Suggested Ideas on how to celebrate Lay Ministry Sunday
- Recommitment pledge, for use by Pastor/Clergy to Lay Ministers during Mass
- General intersessions
- Bulletin announcements

Some materials are courtesy of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Recommitment pledge courtesy of Dawn Rusinko, OFS, CLEM.

Suggested Ideas & How To Celebrate Lay Ministry Sunday

Below are suggestions for promoting and celebrating Lay Ministry Sunday in your Parish and Diocese:

- Call forth from the Congregation the Lay Ministers serving in your parish by name and ministry to the altar for the recommitment pledge and blessing for the work that they do for the Parish and or Diocese. You might consider giving them a small token of appreciation e.g., pin, prayer book marker etc. After Mass, host refreshments to continue the celebration in their honor.
- Have a table set up at reception with resource materials on Diocesan Lay Ecclesial Ministry
- Being a Sunday liturgy, the readings are for that Sunday, but the homily and intercessions can carry the themes of baptism, ministry, service and relationship to Jesus.
- Consider centering the homily on Lay Leadership, through their baptismal call to serve, sharing their gifts with the Church Community and encouraging others to follow suite.
- 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.

Suggested Ideas & How To Celebrate Lay Ministry Sunday

- In the bulletin that Sunday, have a paragraph about your Lay Minister and/or Commissioned Lay Minister, the ministries they serve in, and how their role has benefited them & others. This can even be written by them.
- Have one of them speak from the pulpit about their ministry and service to the parish.
- Organize a group of lay ministers to attend the Diocesan celebration of Lay Ministry Sunday to show support.
- Include some of the above information in a pulpit announcement on Lay Ministry Sunday for several weeks in advance.
- Take inventory of what needs you have in the parish, and put “Wanted” ads in the bulletin asking for help in 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 and how they have benefited the community.

Lay Ministry Re-Commitment Pledge Sunday

After the homily, the pastor will let the congregation know that we are going to begin our Lay Ministry Re- Commitment pledge and call forward by name and ministry to the altar the Lay Ministers of the Parish.

Pastor: Through your baptismal call you have committed yourselves/yourself to serve as Lay Ministers to the Church in God's service. Do you pledge to stay faithful to the Gospel and the Church's teachings in your ministries and life?

Candidates: We/I do.

Pastor: Do you pledge to serve with humility, integrity, love & devotion, persevering in prayer while working for justice?

Candidates: We/I do.

Lay Ministry Re-Commitment Pledge Sunday

Pastor: Do you pledge to serve this parish community collaboratively in faith, hope and love?

Candidates: We/I do.

Pastor: Almighty God, we give you thanks for blessing our parish community and Diocese with men and women who are willing to serve your people in roles of leadership as Lay Ministers.

We ask you, Lord, to bless their commitment to serve, which they have pledged in their hearts and in their work. Grant them a renewed dedication to the message of the Gospel and give the graces of the Holy Spirit which empower them for their duties. Bring their recommitment and dedication to great fruitfulness through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Lay Ministry Re-Commitment Pledge Sunday

**The Pastor will then (Sprinkle the Lay Ministers with holy water and say)
We ask you, Lord, to bless these Lay Ministers answering their baptismal
call to serve and inspire them to be Christ – like in their service to others.
By offering the gift of yourselves and your re-commitment to serve in
ministries, the Church, our Parish and Diocese are truly enriched and we
thank you.**

Pastor: invites the congregation to express their gratitude and support...

Then sends them back to their pews and Mass will continue as usual.

Recommitment pledge courtesy of Dawn Rusinko, OFS CLEM.

General Intercessions

Below is a list of possible general intercession options for Lay Ministry Sunday. Please consider including one or some of the following petitions in the Prayers of the Faithful,

- That all the baptized will humbly welcome the word which has been planted in us and live it in loving service as volunteers and lay pastoral leaders, we pray to the Lord. . .
- For the Church that God will raise up men and women of faith who will put out into the deep and say “Here I am; send me,” when called, we pray to the Lord. . .
- That the gifts God has given us in Baptism will be used in gratitude to serve with joy and courage, we pray to the Lord. . .
- That we will confidently place our trust in the Lord and allow the Spirit to guide our hearts in discerning a call to lay pastoral leadership, we pray to the Lord. . .
- In gratitude for the many persons who serve this parish community as volunteers and lay pastoral leaders, we pray to the Lord . . .
- For each of us, that we will offer our lives and all our deeds in service to our God, we pray to the Lord. . . (Jos 24)
- That those who have responded to the call to serve as lay ministers will know the goodness of the Lord, we pray to the Lord. . . Psalm 34)

General Intercessions

- For those in need today, that the thirsts of their souls and bodies will be quenched through the ministry of those who serve in the name of Jesus, we pray to the Lord. . . (Psalm 34)
- That each of us, disciples of Christ, will hold strong to our faith and manifest our belief in faithful service, we pray to the Lord. (Eph 5)

Bulletin Announcements

Below are suggested announcements for use in your parish bulletins to be used the Sundays prior to the Lay Ministry Sunday celebration.

Lay Ministry Sunday will be celebrated throughout the diocese on the weekend of _____. This will be an opportunity to affirm and celebrate the many dedicated lay women and men who give tirelessly of their time and talent in service to others and to the Church as liturgical ministers, ministers of consolation, members of the finance and pastoral councils, adult faith formation coordinators, liturgical planners and so many other ways. Please join us for a special celebration honoring these dedicated staff/volunteers at the _____ Mass. A reception will follow in the_____.

Today is Lay Ministry Sunday throughout the Diocese, a day when we celebrate the many ways in which our lay women and men give of them-selves in service to the Church. While all are called to service, some are called to leadership. The Lay Ministry Program is for sponsored persons who wish to serve in parish ministry as leaders or coordinators of a particular ministry. Over a three-year period, participants are provided with academic, pastoral, human and spiritual formation. If you are open to filling a need within your parish ministries, speak with your pastor/administrator about applying to the Lay Ministry Program. (provide con-tact info and website resources) Are you open to the call to serve in parish ministry?

Bulletin Announcements

Consider joining the hundreds of other commissioned lay pastoral leaders who have responded to the call by training through the Lay Ministry Program. Speak with your pastor/administrator to see how you can use your particular gifts in service to your parish community. Application for the Lay Ministry Program for 2014-2017 will begin soon. An Information Session for classes starting in _____ at _____ Contact the parish office.

We encourage you to contact your Diocese for their promotional materials for the Lay programs, certifications and commissioning materials.

