



Leader's Playbook

YEAR OF PARISH REVIVAL

JUNE 2023 – JUNE 2024



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival



For in the warmth of his presence, our lives change. Without him, everything would truly be gray. Adoring the Body and Blood of Christ, let us ask him with our heart: “Lord, give me the daily bread to go forward, Lord, satisfy me with your presence!”



POPE FRANCIS

[ANGELUS JUNE 19, 2022](#)



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Dear Friends in Christ,



The three-year Eucharistic Revival has begun! The Church in the United States is responding to the bishops' call for us to be healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and then sent out on mission “for the life of the world” (Jn 6:51). We are invited to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, Our Lord, through the celebration of the Eucharist, so that we can be set on fire for the mission our Church needs so desperately.

The Eucharist is the greatest gift that Jesus has given us because it contains his very self. At the Last Supper Jesus says to his Twelve Apostles, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13). Then he makes that statement real in the gift of the Eucharist when he says, “This is my Body given up for you... this is my Blood poured out for you” (Lk 22:19–20). He gives this saving self-gift—his Paschal Mystery—an enduring presence in the Eucharist, so that for all ages we would be able to receive this gift and learn to make a gift of our own lives: laying down our life for him, as he did for us.

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi this year, June 11, 2023, we will begin the Eucharistic Revival’s parish year (June 2023–July 2024). This year promises to be the most impactful phase of this multi-year response to the Holy Spirit. For the Eucharistic Revival to be successful, parishes must fulfill their key role in boldly proclaiming the Gospel. With Pope Francis, we must understand that “the parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 28).

This playbook offers recommendations for Eucharistic Revival in your parish this year. It is organized into four invitations for pastors and parish leaders to implement in their parishes. All the initiatives are focused on reaching those who have some connection to the Church but have not yet encountered Christ in the Eucharist. Parishes can use this manual to strengthen their Eucharistic culture and share the gift of the Eucharist with all people, regardless of where they are on their faith journey.

Please note that the following suggestions are designed primarily for pastors and parish leaders. Please visit our website, eucharisticrevival.org, for resources throughout the Revival. We expect that many dioceses and parishes will continue to develop their own innovative ideas, and we hope you will share them with us.

This year, let us make the Holy Father's prayer for parishes our own:

Let us be daring. Let us all rethink the style of our parochial communities. We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Pope Francis, Prayer Intention for February 2023

Thank you for saying "yes" to this invitation from our Eucharistic Lord! May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bl. Carlo Acutis, and St. Manuel González García intercede on behalf of our response, and may our Eucharistic Lord rekindle the fire of missionary zeal in us all!



BISHOP ANDREW COZZENS

Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis





The Four Invitations

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1324). In the Eucharist, we truly encounter the Lord Jesus and are plunged into his Paschal Mystery, and through this encounter our lives are transformed (cf. *Desiderio Desideravi*, nos. 10–11, 21). The Eucharist is not an object but a person who is alive and transforms lives. The person of Jesus Christ is at the heart of this Eucharistic moment in the United States. This is the work of revival. It is not an institutional work. We cannot demand revival but we can invite it, pray for it, and respond to it.

Beginning this summer, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, we arrive at the most pivotal year of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival called for by the bishops of the United States. God wants to bring revival to his Church through a rekindled relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, and this year, that invitation reaches the pews and beyond.

The purpose of the Year of Parish Revival is to discern how we might “heal, form, convert, unify, and send” our parishioners through a “rekindled relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist.” This playbook contains four pillars that uphold the movement of Eucharistic revival in the United States: reinvigorate worship, create moments of personal encounter, engage in robust formation, and send Catholics forth as missionaries. These are for your discernment as you

respond to revival already present in your community and foster it, create conditions and openness for new revival, and establish a Eucharistic culture in your parish that sustains the fruits of revival.

Out of these four pillars, we present four invitations and “best-practices” for your implementation. If you as a parish are wondering, “What are we being asked to do to live out the Year of Parish Revival?” then this playbook, with these four invitations, is the answer to your question.

However, this is not a prescriptive guide, nor is it all-encompassing. It is a companion for you to engage with in dialogue and offers a place to begin your discernment. Every parish is unique and every pastoral setting requires its own response. This is a high call, as the primary touchpoint with the faith is at the local parish. Though we have many incredible

movements and apostolates around the country, it is still in local parishes that the Mass is celebrated and Jesus in the Eucharist is encountered and received.

This is the task of local parishes in this Year of Parish Revival: to revive their parishioners in their love with Jesus in the Eucharist and to send them forth to share this love with others. We must remember the power and responsibility of the local parish, especially in light of the jarring statistics about Eucharistic beliefs among Catholics. Seven in ten Catholics believe the Eucharist is merely a symbol, an encounter with an “it”


instead of a “who.” This reality should break our hearts, not because of what it means for Mass attendance or stewardship but because so many Catholics are missing the opportunity to know Jesus Christ.

As our hearts break, we should remain hopeful and empowered. **We can directly impact these numbers.**

One thing is certain, though: in this movement of Eucharistic revival, the bishops of the United States are asking every parish to take one step further than their current efforts. The Four Invitations in this book can be adapted and expanded, depending on your context. The desired fruit is a Eucharistic encounter that leads to belief and becomes visible in practice.

Revival requires encounter, and that encounter needs to happen—this year and every year following—in parishes across our country. “The parish is not an outdated institution,” Pope Francis reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium*. An encounter with Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord, is powerful because it changes us. It gives us our very character.

This Playbook for the Year of Parish Revival offers pathways to encounter with, belief in, and worship of Jesus in the Eucharist. How you implement them will be a work of asking the Holy Spirit and discerning your parish’s gifts, charisms, challenges, and opportunities.



This is the task of local parishes in this Year of Parish Revival, to revive their parishioners in their love with Jesus in the Eucharist and to send them forth to share this love with others.



*Man should tremble,
the world should quake,
all Heaven should be deeply moved
when the Son of God appears on
the altar in the hands of the priest.*



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI



Reinvigorate Worship

After his Resurrection, Jesus approaches two despairing disciples on the road to Emmaus. After encountering them, he reminds them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!” (Lk 24:25). Then, he interprets the Scriptures, explaining to them how the Prophets had foretold the Messiah’s suffering and how it would lead to him entering into glory. Their hearts burned within them while he spoke, but they did not recognize him until “he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them” (Lk 24:30).

For us, too, the Eucharist makes us capable of seeing and believing in our Resurrected Lord (cf. *Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 7). Through the Liturgy, we are guaranteed an encounter with Jesus. “Christian faith is either an encounter with him alive, or it does not exist” (*Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 10). Thus, “we have become sharers of God’s inmost life” (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, no. 8) invited into the “perfect communion of love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” (ibid.).

All members of the Church—ordained ministers and the faithful—enter into and should be formed by the Liturgy. “We are required every day to rediscover the beauty of the truth of the Christian celebration” (*Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 21). “Efforts must also be made to encourage a sense of community within the parish, above all in the common celebration of the Sunday Mass” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, no. 42). The beauty of the Liturgy should engender in us wonder, which leads us to adoration.



INVITATION #1

Attentiveness to the *Ars Celebrandi*

The efforts to reinvigorate worship must take place on an individual level and on a communal level.

Priests, especially pastors, have a unique role to play in reinvigorating worship. In this Year of Parish Revival, we invite and encourage all our faithful priests to a renewed, careful attention to the *ars celebrandi* (the art of celebrating). This ensures that “the Paschal Mystery is made present so that the baptized, through their participation can experience it in their own lives” (*Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 49). This requires:

- ◆ Fidelity to the texts and rubrics of the Church
- ◆ Prayerful understanding of the liturgical texts, feasts, and seasons throughout the year
- ◆ A reverent sense that the minister and assembly are ordered in such a way that they “may draw from it more abundantly those fruits” for which Christ instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his Body and Blood (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 16)
- ◆ Proper preparation for celebrating the liturgy

INSPIRING EXAMPLES



In the [Archdiocese of Philadelphia](#), workshops with the Office of Divine Worship are being offered to parishes to reintroduce *ars celebrandi* alongside new offerings of Eucharistic adoration and 40 Hours Devotion.

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

- ◆ Encourage a renewed reverence for liturgical silence
- ◆ Invite parishioners to consider daily Mass attendance
- ◆ Host a catechetical formation series on the Eucharist
- ◆ Provide confession before the celebration of Holy Mass
- ◆ Encourage the sharing of witness stories about powerful experiences of the Holy Mass



Similarly, the [Diocese of Burlington](#), will promulgate “updated sacramental and liturgical guidelines” to be implemented in parishes. Furthermore, parishes will be encouraged to pray and think deeply about how Mass is being celebrated and what could be further enhanced, so as to revere the beauty and mystery of what is being celebrated—the Eucharist.



Personal Encounter

Near the shores of Galilee, Jesus' words to his first disciples were "Come and See." In that moment of Encounter, something changed in the hearts of those men forever. Something in their lives and hearts finally made sense in meeting Jesus—a promise was fulfilled. Do you remember the first time you met Jesus in the Eucharist? What happened to your heart, the direction of your life, the desires you had?

Encounters with Jesus change us. During this Year of Parish Revival, we want all the faithful to be invited to "Come and See" in hopes that they truly Encounter the presence of Jesus alive in the Eucharist.



INVITATION #2

Monthly “Encounter Nights” That Help Parishioners Encounter Jesus in the Eucharist Personally

During the Year of Parish Revival, the National Eucharistic Revival proposes that every parish begins a monthly hour of Eucharistic adoration for “encounter,” so that every parishioner has the opportunity to meet Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. As the year begins, an “Encounter Night” guide will be provided along with other resources to give a detailed template that could be used, a list of liturgical items needed, appropriate prayers, and suggested options for songs.

These holy hours of Eucharistic adoration are planned for the evening or during the weekend—preferably a time that most members of the parish could attend—in a desire for every Catholic to encounter the Lord anew. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is encouraged to be offered, and appropriate readings or talks could be given.



It is powerful to see this movement already taking place across the country and the world. St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome has started their own monthly nights of Eucharistic adoration in the square. At the heart and home of the Church, our Pope is praying alongside his people for Jesus’ presence to be made known.

How will your parish do it?
These nights of Encounter are for your whole parish and its unique and personal culture.

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

- ◆ Plan music to aid worship
- ◆ Invite prayer teams
- ◆ Equip parishioners with language to invite others
- ◆ Plan a Eucharistic procession for Corpus Christi
- ◆ Plan a Eucharistic Revival parish retreat
- ◆ Discuss with your pastor ways your parish can provide space for regular Eucharistic adoration

INSPIRING EXAMPLES



In the Archdiocese of New York, St. Mary's Church in Newburg has been planning monthly holy hour nights called "Revival" nights. Run by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs), their monthly holy hours are planned in the evening for the first Friday of each month. It includes a time of adoration, music, preaching, and confessions.



Just a few miles away, Holy Cross Parish in the Bronx holds monthly Masses for healing that conclude with a time of adoration and Eucharistic procession. Celebrated in Spanish and English, these Masses invite all the faithful to a vibrant and passionate experience of worship and intercessory prayer. Jesus, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, comes close to every person in the church by way of procession. The Sacrament of Reconciliation and prayer teams are also offered during the time Eucharistic adoration.



If you took all of the good works done by all of the humans who have ever lived in all of history and stacked them all up and multiplied them by a million, they wouldn't equal the merit, the virtue and the worth of one Mass.



SAINT TERESA OF AVILA



Robust Faith Formation

“After three days they found [Jesus] in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers” (Lk 2:46–47).

Jesus captivated crowds by his teachings. “When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them...” (Mt 5:1–2). “He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test’” (Lk 11:1–4).

At the heart of the Church’s life is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus, represented for us in the Holy Eucharist (see *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, no. 3). Yet Christ came not only to suffer, die, and rise again for our salvation; he also came to instruct us on how to live, how to pray, and most importantly, how to love as he loves us.

We all need this continual formation in the sacrament of love, the Holy Eucharist, so that we can be more effective servants of our Lord.



INVITATION #3

Preaching Series and Small Group Initiative “Jesus and the Eucharist”

The preaching and homilies of our priests, “inserted in a unique way into the Eucharistic celebration, from which it receives special force and vigor, certainly has a particular role... to the extent that it expresses the profound faith of the sacred minister and is impregnated with love” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, no. 43).

During this Year of Parish Revival, we are encouraging parish priests to implement a series of Sunday homilies to be devoted exclusively to the Eucharist. Eucharistic worship and the implications of this worship are vital for our whole lives. These homilies might cover:



1. Paschal Mystery and the Eucharist



2. Real Presence and Eucharistic Worship



3. Eucharist and the Call to Holiness



4. Eucharist and the Call to Evangelize and Serve¹



Along with this preaching series, each parish will be invited to participate in a small group program called “Jesus and the Eucharist.” This program has been developed specifically for the Year of Parish Revival by a team of Catholic experts who are working closely with the National Eucharistic Revival. Every parish in the country is encouraged to use this program, in union with the preaching series, at least once. By attending this series of homilies preached at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, small groups not only receive the gift of important catechetical formation but an encounter with Jesus Himself. The small groups will provide formation and opportunities for growth in faith and love for the Eucharist in union with the preaching of their own pastor who leads them to this Eucharistic Encounter at its very source, the Holy Mass. These two elements complement each other and are meant to be paired in an intentional way.

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

- ◆ Provide Eucharistic talks throughout the year.
- ◆ Encourage participation in Eucharistic formation programs available on the National Eucharistic Revival [Learn Platform](#) and in the [Heart of the Revival](#) Newsletter.



*Do you wish to honor
the Body of Christ?*

***Do not ignore him
when he is naked.***



SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

on Mt 25:31–46



Missionary Sending

The end of the Gospel of Matthew recounts the saving and astonishing resurrection of Jesus from the dead. There, full of glory, Jesus commands the disciples who have been with him throughout his public ministry, “Do not be afraid! Go and tell my brothers to set out!” and later, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations!” (Mt 28:10, 19).

“Jesus is not a personage from the past; he is a person living today. We do not know him from history books; we encounter him in life” (Pope Francis, Homily for the Easter Vigil, April 20, 2019). The life of Jesus did not happen years ago; it is something that is still happening now. As Christian disciples, we are called to bring this ever-present Life of God into the world.

But the way we invite matters. Think about a time when you were invited somewhere new. What made you go? What made you unafraid? It is a good practice to anticipate how someone else would receive an invitation from you, to think about and pray through how someone might desire or want to be invited. Jesus was the master of this, offering to make Peter, a fisherman, a fisher of men (Mt 4:18–20, Mk 1:16–18, Lk 5:1–11); identifying Nathaniel under the fig tree; and calling Matthew at the customs post. Jesus knew how to encounter another in their place of comfort while inviting them to more.



INVITATION #4

“Invite One Back” and Accompany Those in Need and on the Margins

In this Year of Parish Revival we will launch an “Invite One Back” initiative that every parish can take part in. Imagine if every faithful Catholic invited one person in their inner-circle who has fallen away from attending Sunday Mass or had the courage to reach out to one coworker who seems interested in talking about faith? Our churches would be renewed and filled with communion—a desire we all long for.

How each parish will go about this “Invite One Back” initiative will look particular to each parish culture. Specific Sundays or an important liturgical feast could be named or designated in which the homily is inviting, welcoming, and informative. Opportunities include Bible studies in which new members are easily assimilated, or times of fellowship after adoration nights or Sunday Mass could be offered with refreshments and conversation that is warm and encouraging. Any invitation to a new encounter with Jesus and his bride, the Church, is a victory for the whole body of Christ.

The second part of this invitation encourages us to consider how we can identify and accompany those in need and on the margins. As part of the Mystical Body of Christ, Catholics all over the country can become the hands and feet of Jesus to bring his Good News to the mission field of their neighborhood and parish. The Church reminds us that “the Eucharist commits us to the poor” (CCC, no. 1397). “A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented” (*Deus caritas est*, no. 14).

Let us seize this moment as the great missionary opportunity of our time. When we hear the words, “Go forth, the Mass is ended,” our work as missionary disciples begins anew as we respond to the Lord’s command to “go and make disciples” by the faithful witness of our lives—by reaching out to the lost, the least, and the last. With confidence, let us entrust ourselves to the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring about a Eucharistic Revival at this time in the life of the world!



WANT TO GO DEEPER?

- ◆ Recommit to a social service and to the poor in the community
- ◆ Facilitate volunteer efforts at area organizations
- ◆ Invite someone to a small group
- ◆ Accompany or mentor someone in deeper discipleship

INSPIRING EXAMPLES



The Archdioceses of Detroit and St. Louis participated in evangelization campaigns in which parishes planned creative ways to invite friends and family back to Mass during Christmas. Before the invitation was extended, meetings were organized to teach hospitality, how to invite, and simple tactics on how to make someone new feel welcome. Within such an anointed seasonal time, Christmas was a natural fit for invitation. The dioceses used videos, virtual resources, and personal connection to invite back Catholics. Parish priests prepared their homilies accordingly and hosted simple hospitality events.



*We want to
start a FIRE,
not a program.*



BISHOP ANDREW COZZENS
Chairman of the USCCB's Committee
on Evangelization and Catechesis



This is just beginning...

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND IDEAS



eucharisticrevival.org/lead



NATIONAL
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