Non-eucharistic gatherings require planning

EDITORS' NOTE: This is the last installment of the diocesan document, "The Centrality of Sunday Eucharist: Guidelines for Parish Planning," which the Catholic Courier has been publishing during July in place of Bishop Matthew H. Clark's column. The bishop's column will return beginning with the next issue.

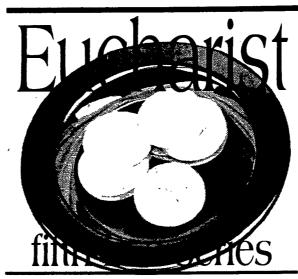
Alternative Celebrations

We, the Church of Rochester, believe that the theology of Baptism supports the gathering of the Christian community in many different ways of prayer, but the primary place of gathering must be at the Eucharist. It is only in the Eucharist that we are able to make present, time and time again, the dying and rising of Christ. This is our corporate characteristic and the way in which we define ourselves as the Body of Christ. ("Gathered In Steadfast Faith," #16).

Therefore, the Eucharist is demanded by Baptism and without it (regardless of other ways in which we gather to pray) we stand to lose our identity as Catholic Christians. (Directory for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest, #10, 11).

We also affirm the statement that "the primary and original purpose for reservation of the eucharist outside of Mass is the administration of viaticum. The secondary ends are the giving of communion and the adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ present in the sacrament." All activity surrounding the reserved sacrament is to be seen in relationship to the Mass. ("Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass," #5).

We realize that communion services can provide the presence of Christ in the assembly, the proclamation of the Word and the pre-consecrated elements of bread. They can celebrate a response of faith in the hearing of the Word and



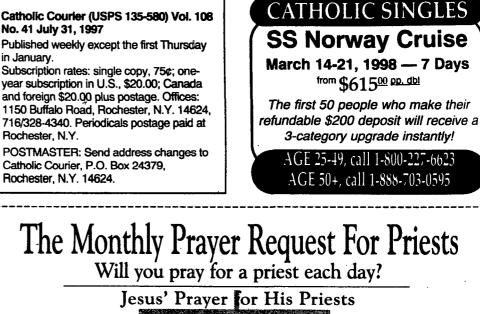
the reception of Holy Communion. Communion services, however, can never celebrate the sacrifice of Christ in his dying and rising because there is no eucharistic prayer, the "center and summit" of the celebration of the eucharist. "The meaning of the prayer is that the entire congregation joins itself to Christ in acknowledging the great things God has done and in offering the sacrifice." It is in this way that we are joined to the dying and rising of Christ and become the Body of Christ. The response of faith to the mission of the gospel is to be a life directed by the dying and rising of Christ. (General Instruction on the Roman Missal, #54.)

Therefore, the Church of Rochester, in all its parishes and faith communities affirms that:

since the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is the norm for the diocese, alternative celebrations in the absence of Eucharist will be held only in extraordinary situations which preclude the opportunity for the community to celebrate Eucharist.

- each parish/faith community, in cooperation with the cluster grouping of which it is a part, will be required to formulate a plan for the celebration of alternative services (according to the norms of the Church as found in "Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass," the Directory for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest, "Gathered In Steadfast Faith" and the "General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours"), list the Mass times of neighboring parishes and publicize that plan within the community. These plans will honor the understanding of the ecclesial community and the desire to always make the celebration of the Eucharist available.
- catechesis for the formation of the community concerning the centrality of the Sunday Eucharist and the nature of alternative celebrations will be provided by the parish and the diocese.
- lay leadership for alternative celebrations will be identified from within the community by the community and training will be provided in the art and techniques of prayer leadership by the diocese.
- alternative celebrations at weddings and funerals will be celebrated when appropriate as provided for in the Order of Christian Marriage and the Order of Christian Funerals.
- eucharistic devotions will be celebrated according to the norms of the Church as found in "Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass."
- the Office of Liturgy and the Office of Continuing Education will commit their efforts to the preparation of guidelines, ritual texts and training to support these efforts.





O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world all missionaries and those whose office it is to **By** : Stat Chu She Roo grii will ing the par Рте us add tog roe ties for Cat Ma Por 196 wei sino By Fat as i fra 199 Co with Kev of I Pau the was ver He ces cha reti .Ch row was Fat ple and Ho saic I and Par Bei pri ł Ch St. of (ł in V Arı reta St. ser Atl St. Ho Na pas Ēln (19 que cor

7:30 pm St. Boniface Church	15 Whalin St.,	Rochester	716-271-1468	and preach
7:30 pm St. Rita Church New Location	. Knights of Colum	ous, Berrett Dr., Webst	ar	le
MONDAY			<u> </u>	
7:30 pm St. Jude the Apostle Church		Rochester	716-247-4322	
TUESDAY	·		<u> </u>	
10:00 em Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chu	rchBingo Pal	ice, Rochester		Sunda
7:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson /	ve., Rochester	716-544-9951	Please
7:30 pm St. Heleas Church	Gates Center I	Bingo, Westmar Plaza	716-235-1210	Kn
WEDNESDAY	· ····			Pope
7:30 pm Holy Family Home School Assoc	Water Tower F	ark, Rochester	716-235-0960	John Pau
THURSDAY			Ţ	Peter
7:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson /	ve., Rochester	716-544-9951	Mandina
SATURDAY				Robert J.
12:30 pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chu	ichBing	Palace, Rochester .		Downs
7:30 pm Good Shepherd Church		ta Rd., Rochester	716-334-3518	Robert G
8:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church	41 Colebrook I	r., Rochester	716-226-2943	Miller, CS
				Brian Cool

and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zerl, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee. Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 5, 1953 Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Josary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet								
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