

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.

G48 B7 N36

AUGUST BINGO CALENDAR

SPECIAL PAID ADVERTISEMENT ■ CALL FOR HOLIDAY CANCELLATIONS

BINGO

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	SATURDAY
6:15 pm St. Stanislaus Church 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951	7:30 pm St. Jude the Apostle Church 4100 Lyell Rd., Rochester 716-247-4322	10:00 am Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Bingo Palace, Rochester 716-467-2725	7:30 pm Holy Family Home School Assoc. Water Tower Park, Rochester 716-235-0860	7:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951	12:30 pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Bingo Palace, Rochester 716-467-2725
7:30 pm Holy Family Church Water Tower Park, Rochester 716-235-0860	7:30 pm St. Helens Church Gates Center Bingo, Westmar Plaza 716-235-1210	7:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951	7:30 pm St. Rita Church - New Location - Knights of Columbus, Barrett Dr., Webster 716-671-1100	7:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951	7:30 pm Good Shepherd Church 3288 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester 716-334-3518
7:30 pm St. Boniface Church 15 Whalin St., Rochester 716-271-1468		7:30 pm St. Helens Church Gates Center Bingo, Westmar Plaza 716-235-1210		7:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951	8:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church 41 Colebrook Dr., Rochester 716-226-2943

* CLIP & SAVE *

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 108 No. 41 July 31, 1997
 Published weekly except the first Thursday in January.
 Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

CATHOLIC SINGLES
SS Norway Cruise
March 14-21, 1998 — 7 Days
 from \$615.00 pp. dbl
The first 50 people who make their refundable \$200 deposit will receive a 3-category upgrade instantly!
 AGE 25-49, call 1-800-227-6623
 AGE 50+, call 1-888-703-0595

The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

Jesus' Prayer for His Priests

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 preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, 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, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering, Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

August, 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please send donations to: MPRP, 70-A Green Knolls Dr., Rochester, NY 14620-4746			Rev. Fathers:	William G. Endres	1 Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, DD	2
3 Pope John Paul II	4 Inactive Priests	5 Robert J. Kanka	6 Clarence W. Gardner	7 Albert Gaelens, CSB	8 Matthew Temple, O.Carm.	9 James A. Schwartz
10 Peter Mandina	11 F. James Lawlor	12 Michael Hayden	13 Leo J. Klem, CSB	14 Most Rev. James M. Moynihan	15 Douglas Della Pietra	16 Edward J. Foy
17 Robert J. Downs	18 Martin Boler, OSB	19 Fredeick W. Bush	20 John P. Camero, SJ	21 Mihai Dubovici	22 David N. Gramkee	23 Raymond G. Heisel
24 Robert G. Miller, CSB	25 Symon P. Ntaiya	26 Edward E. Steinkirchner	27 Eugene R. Weis	28 Robert T. Werth	29 Francis H. Vogt	30 Michael G. Upson
31 Brian Cool	Interested in sponsoring our ministry? We will publish a monthly calendar when donations allow us to continue. Each month the MPRP requires \$300 to cover its costs and 100% of your donation is used to sustain this ministry.					