



# MOVING FORWARD

into Eucharistic Revival from the  
Diocesan Eucharistic Congress  
2023

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# Moving Forward into Eucharistic Revival from the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

## Introduction

“And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:20

**Introductory Reminder:** We are now well engaged in the diocesan Eucharistic Revival. The basis for our Revival has been the 4 Pillars of the Eucharistic Revival of the USCCB: we are invited to enter into and foster Personal Encounters with Jesus in the Eucharist and with one another; to Reinvigorate Worship through attention to the *ars celebrandi* and entering more deeply and more fully into the mysteries of the Eucharist; to Deepening Formation so that we know, understand, and live in the grace of the Eucharist; and, finally, to engage in Missionary Sending, taking the love, joy, healing, and peace that we have received to those in our lives, our parishes, and our communities. (To see more about these 4 Pillars and to see some suggestions for implementing them, you can go to <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/lead> and download the Leader’s Playbook for the Year of Parish Revival.) The question for each parish then becomes, how can we implement these 4 Pillars of Revival so that we experience a True Eucharistic Revival?

**Going forward from these principles:** At the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, parish delegations prayed together, discussed how to implement the Eucharistic Revival in their parishes, and discerned next steps for that implementation. The Holy Spirit was at work among us, and, in analyzing the next steps, we see that the following came to us as areas for renewal:

- Revival of Leadership
- Spiritual Revival
- Liturgical Revival
- Revival of Communion and Community
- Revival of Teaching
- Revival of Outreach

Revival in these areas will take us further into discipleship and missionary discipleship. Revival of Leadership will deepen and depend on the discipleship of the leaders and will allow more fruitful pastoral ministry in the parish, resulting in deeper discipleship among the members of the parish. This will be Spiritual Revival, flowing from encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide each one of us, and extending that discipleship and growth to the members of the parish. A Liturgical Revival will enhance these efforts as the members of our parishes enter more completely into the beauty and joy of encountering Jesus and one another in

the liturgy. Alongside this, there will be a Revival of Communion and Community as we realize and more firmly actualize the Communion that Jesus brings to us through His Holy Spirit in the Eucharist and allow the Holy Spirit to make our parishes places of true Christian hospitality. We will be disciples of Christ, brought into communion by the Holy Spirit, and growing through authentic Christian fellowship and accompaniment. A Revival of Teaching will contribute to this as we more fully understand and more fruitfully proclaim the saving truths of the Faith which form us as disciples living our discipleship in the world. These revivals will be enhanced by and contribute to a Revival of Outreach as we take the Good News to the poor, the marginalized, and those who have not yet heard or responded to the Gospel. As part of our Eucharistic Revival, let us work toward these revivals and become the communion of missionary disciples that we are called to be!

The pages that follow are intended to be useful for your continued discernment of this implementation. You are encouraged to use them to focus your Parish Eucharistic Revival team discernment sessions on the goals of these areas of revival as you discern how to implement your next steps. The following sections are on each page:

1. **Categories of Next Steps Discerned in this Area** – This section lists the subsections of each area of revival that were present in your next steps. If you listed a next step in this area of revival, you should be able to see the theme of that next step in this section.
2. **Perspective** – These are statements of what we would like to see arise from revival in each of these areas of revival. These should be statements that each member can agree with one another upon, despite whatever other differences they have. Keeping these in mind will help to focus your discussion on the **goals** you are trying to achieve.
3. **Convictions and Principles of Action** – These are statements of convictions that we hold and principles for action that should guide our implementation. Keeping these in mind will help you to discern **means** of implementation that are consistent with achieving your goals.
4. **Planning Suggestions** – These suggestions are meant to help you refine your implementation of those means you have discerned.
5. **Scriptures for Team Discernment Sessions** – Please feel free to use these or other Scriptures for *lectio divina* within your discernment sessions, grounding that discernment in prayer. You are also free to adapt the materials from the Eucharistic Congress for your discernment.

As always, thank you for your work. We are praying for you and stand ready to assist you as you pursue Eucharistic Revival. Please feel free to invite Dr. Seth Wright or one of the other members of the Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Team for consultation or to sit in on one of your team discernment sessions.

Come, Holy Spirit, and revive this Diocese so that we are brought ever more into communion in our Eucharistic Lord!

## **Revival of Leadership**

### **Categories of Next Steps Discerned in this Area:**

- 1) Team Building
- 2) Communication

### **Perspective:**

- 1) We want to be focused on leading the parish in the direction that the Holy Spirit directs.
- 2) We want to do this in union with and under the authority of the pastor.
- 3) We want to recognize and utilize secular leadership wisdom as helpful, keeping the goals of the Church paramount.
- 4) We want to exercise this leadership as a function of the *munus* (office) of governance. (For a reflection on this, see [Pope Benedict XVI's general audience from May 26, 2010.](#))
- 5) We want to call forth and guide the use of charisms in missionary disciples.
- 6) We want communication that brings forth communion in mission.

### **Convictions and Principles of Action:**

- 1) Christ guides His Church through the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The Holy Spirit is the one who knows how to bring about Revival.
- 3) Only a team that is revived can hope to revive a parish.
- 4) A team that practices group discernment will become increasingly able to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit guiding their deliberations.
- 5) Group discernment requires detachment from one's own ideas and opinions and openness to listening to how the Holy Spirit is speaking through the group.
- 6) Often in discernment, we are only given the next step to take, the reasoning of which may not be apparent until we are farther along the path that the Spirit has mapped out for us.

### **Planning Suggestions:**

- 1) Schedule regular Eucharistic Revival team meetings.
- 2) Keep prayer central to these meetings (1/3 to 1/2 of the time of the meeting suggested).
- 3) Specific questions should be discerned and put to discernment.
  - a. Discern what question to ask.
  - b. Discern answers to the question.

### **Scriptures for Team Discernment Sessions:**

- Acts 1:15-26 – The discernment of Matthias as apostle.
- Acts 2 – The action of the Holy Spirit followed by the action of the apostles.
- Acts 13:1-5 – Discernment of mission after fasting and praying.
- Acts 15:6-21 – Discernment of action by the gathered apostles and disciples.

## **Spiritual Revival**

### **Categories of Next Steps Discerned in this Area:**

- 1) Holy Spirit
- 2) Testimony
- 3) Extension to parish

### **Perspective:**

- 1) We want spiritual growth, particularly in being open to the healing, unifying, and guiding of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist through openness to His Holy Spirit.
- 2) We want to hear the testimony to the saving power of Christ in individual lives.
- 3) We want to help those in our parishes experience this saving power through encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist.
- 4) We want the deeper experience of communion that this will bring about.

### **Convictions and Principles of Action:**

- 1) Openness to the action of the Holy Spirit in prayer, in the sacraments, and in our words and deeds brings spiritual growth.
- 2) To be open to the action of the Holy Spirit, we must give up control.
- 3) Christ transforms people's lives. It is always God who causes the growth.
- 4) Hearing testimonies to Christ's action in someone's life can be a moment of encounter with Christ Himself.
- 5) Testimonies are not about the person giving the testimony but about the power of Christ.
- 6) Testimonies need not, and should not, be sensationalized or graphic.
- 7) Testimonies tell what life was like before an encounter with Jesus, about the encounter with Jesus, and what life has become like after that encounter with Jesus.
- 8) We are already in communion with all the members of our parish through Christ Jesus.
- 9) That communion can be lived and experienced ever more deeply.
- 10) Authentic Christian friendship deepens communion.

### **Planning Suggestions:**

- 1) Focus on building trust by building relationship.
- 2) Create opportunities for encounter with Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- 3) When planning events, intend to create space for people to have conversations with God.
- 4) Have intentional spiritual conversations with people.
- 5) Discern people to give testimonies, and work with them on their testimonies.
- 6) Add testimonies and proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ to parish events.
- 7) Begin parish events and meetings with *lectio divina*.

### **Scriptures for Team Discernment Sessions:**

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 – God causes the growth.

Romans 8:14-17 – Children of God, led by the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:1-6 – One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

John 16:12-15 – The Spirit of truth

## Liturgical Revival

### Categories of Next Steps Discerned in this Area:

- 1) Adoration
- 2) Processional or other paraliturgical events
- 3) Liturgical revival overall

### Perspective:

- 1) We want to connect with God in the liturgy.
- 2) We want a deep relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
- 3) We want to understand the liturgy and to participate consciously and actively.
- 4) We want to be transformed by the Eucharist and to be empowered for mission.

### Convictions and Principles of Action:

- 1) God and His grace are present to us in the Eucharist.
- 2) God comes to us to connect with us and to connect us to one another.
- 3) God comes to us to empower us for mission.
- 4) We are called to enter into the liturgy with body, mind, and spirit.
- 5) The Eucharist unites us, and we are called to unite ourselves with it.
- 6) Merely knowing the words of the prayers does not mean someone understands what is being said.
- 7) Reverent, beautiful, joyful, prayerful celebration of the liturgy is attractive, serves to foster communion, and engenders prayer.
- 8) Modern people do not automatically think sacramentally. How do we teach this?

### Planning Suggestions:

- 1) Help people understand and enter into Adoration
  - a. Not to plan is to plan poorly.<sup>1</sup> It is not enough simply to open the Church and place the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance. There are many things to consider prior to beginning a regularly scheduled time for Adoration at the Parish, especially as this involves extended periods of ‘open’ adoration. Start small, and schedule times that are safe and convenient for your parishioners.
  - b. Planners should keep in mind the three purposes of Eucharistic Exposition:
    - i. To acknowledge Christ’s marvelous presence in the sacrament
    - ii. To lead us to a fuller participation in the celebration of the Eucharist, culminating in Holy Communion,
    - iii. To foster “the worship which is due to Christ in spirit and in truth.”<sup>2</sup>
  - c. Initiate discussions about the dynamics of adoration: spending time with Jesus and listening to Him, praying for the needs of the Church and the whole world, providing options for meditative, contemplative, or intercessory prayer during adoration.
    - i. At a minimum, make available some form of the “Liturgy of the Hours” to guide prayer and reflection.
    - ii. Have a Bible present, with suggestions to read and reflect upon the Gospel of John, particularly chapters 6, 14, and 15.
    - iii. Make available a list of Psalms to read and reflect upon, particularly Ps 5, 8, 24, 51, 63, 138, 139, 148-150. Consider picking a seasonally appropriate Psalm and make it available on a prayer card.



- iv. Create and make available at Adoration a list of prayer needs in your local setting (sick and homebound, recently deceased members of the parish, the local Soup Kitchen or Food Pantry, the Crisis Pregnancy Center, etc.) and general needs of the world. Update these regularly.
  - v. Create a list of upcoming parish programs (Totus Tuus, Vacation Bible School, Religious Education, Eucharistic Revival activities, Festivals, etc.) and suggest them for prayerful support.
  - vi. Have a guide to praying the Rosary available.
  - vii. If possible, provide guides for both Lectio and Visio Divina.
- d. Discuss how to encourage extending prayer from Mass into this time, creating a hungering for the next Mass.
- i. Especially if the period of adoration is extended with participants coming and going (i.e. not ending with Benediction for all present), consider making available a formulaic ‘leave taking’ prayer modeled on the oration just prior to Benediction or the options available in *Holy Communion and Worship Outside Mass* that would become particular to your parish adorers, thus linking this time of adoration to the celebration of the Mass in your parish.
  - ii. Ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is never left exposed when no one is present for prayer and adoration. Adoration brings together personal devotion and communal prayer, and so “every effort should be made to ensure that there should be at least two people present. There must absolutely never be periods when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and there is no one present for adoration.”<sup>3</sup> At such times the Blessed Sacrament should be reposed in the Tabernacle.
- 2) Use materials from the Eucharistic Congress procession to plan a procession. You can find these materials listed as “Corpus Christi Worship Aid” at the bottom of <https://www.diopueblo.org/about-eucharistic-revival> under “Resources.”
  - 3) Celebrate liturgies with reverence and joy through attentiveness to the *ars celebrandi*. (See pages 8-11 of the Leader’s Playbook and [Desiderio Desideravi](#).)
  - 4) Help people to pray the prayers of the liturgy.
  - 5) Once it is available, use the materials of the kerygmatic walk through the Mass to help parishioners understand and enter into the Eucharist more deeply.

**Scriptures for Team Discernment Sessions:**

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 – Institution of the Eucharist
- John 6:53-58 – the Bread of Life
- John 7:37-39 – rivers of living water
- Luke 10:38-42 – Martha and Mary
- Luke 9:11-17 – the crowds follow Jesus, and He feeds them
- Luke 19:28-40 – Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem

<sup>1</sup> *Eucharistic Adoration after Vatican II*, Edward Foley, Liturgical Press, 2022, pg 94.

<sup>2</sup> *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass*, ICEL, June 21, 1973, Catholic Book Publishing, No. 82.

<sup>3</sup> Responsum ad dubium received by the USCCB Committee on the Liturgy (July 1995), in *Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist*, 37



## **Revival of Communion and Community**

### **Categories of Next Steps Discerned in this Area:**

- 1) Community building
- 2) Bilingual community building
- 3) Parish/Deanery community building
- 4) Invitation/Welcoming

### **Perspective:**

- 1) We want authentic communion with Jesus and with the members of His Body in our parish.
- 2) We want real relationships built on that communion.
- 3) We want all ethnic and language groups within our parish to be united in worship and working together in harmony for the spread of the Kingdom while maintaining and rejoicing in our diversity.
- 4) We want the groups of our parish and the parishes of our deanery to collaborate in helpful and healthy ways for the sanctification of all.
- 5) We want to be hospitable and welcoming so that others may find relationship with Jesus.
- 6) We want to invite those who are not members of our parish to find Jesus in our midst.

### **Convictions and Principles of Action:**

- 1) The members of our parish are already in communion with one another through their Baptism and in the common celebration of the sacraments.
- 2) This communion may be deepened through formation and healthy, Christ-centered interaction.
- 3) Praying with and for one another deepens the experience of communion.
- 4) Sharing life with one another and sharing stories of how God has worked in our lives deepen the experience of communion.

### **Planning Suggestions:**

- 1) Add prayer, testimonies, and opportunities for small group discussion into events and programs.
- 2) Have people from different groups work together on a parish initiative.
- 3) Discuss ways for parishes to collaborate at deanery meetings.
- 4) In homilies and meetings, engage the subject of communion and how it may be deepened.
- 5) Reflect on and reform or renew the ways your parish speaks to, invites, and welcomes people into parish activities. You may not be inviting in a way that they can understand or that is appealing.
- 6) Make parish activities easy to enter into for newcomers and provide enough substance, centered on Jesus, without overwhelming them.

### **Scriptures for Team Discernment Sessions:**

John 17:20-26 – Jesus' prayer for unity  
Galatians 3:26-28 – one in Christ  
Ephesians 4:25-32 – rules for the new life in Christ  
1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – one in the Holy Spirit  
1 Corinthians 10:16-17 – communion in Christ

## **Revival of Teaching**

### **Categories of Next Steps Discerned in this Area:**

- 1) Training
- 2) Catechesis

### **Perspective:**

- 1) We want people to know Jesus and to be able to live more deeply with Him through that knowledge.
- 2) We want people to know and understand the Faith so that they can be transformed by the love of God.
- 3) We want ministers to be well-trained and to bring people closer to Jesus through their ministry.

### **Convictions and Principles of Action:**

- 1) Disciples make disciples.
- 2) You cannot give what you do not have.
- 3) Catechesis and ministry are never one's own but are Christ's. Avoid and renounce ownership of your ministry.
- 4) Catechesis and training involve but are not limited to the transfer of knowledge.
- 5) Catechesis is directed toward helping people into deeper communion with Jesus Christ and toward transformation of their lives so that they live as missionary disciples.
- 6) Effective catechesis delivers solid content and answers the questions "How does this bring me closer to Jesus?" and "How is this Good News for my everyday life?"
- 7) Ministry is directed toward helping people into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and toward deeper communion within the Body of Christ.

### **Planning Suggestions:**

- 1) Ministers should be trained not only in the tasks of their ministries but also in the spirituality of ministry in general and of their particular ministries.
- 2) Small groups where catechists and ministers can continue in their formation can be helpful if set up and run well.
- 3) Pray about, think about, and discuss how each particular ministry can contribute to Eucharistic Revival.
- 4) Pray about, think about, and discuss what Eucharistic topics your parishioners need deeper formation in (see the themes in the ["Towards Eucharistic Revival" booklet](#), but also think about the prayers of the Mass and other topics), and how you will catechize on these topics.

### **Scriptures for Team Discernment Sessions:**

Matthew 28:19-20 – go and make disciples  
Colossians 3:23 – serving the Lord  
Romans 10:14 – How can they believe in Him whom they have not heard?  
Acts 8:30-31 – How can I understand unless someone guides me?  
1 John 1:1,3 – we proclaim what we have experienced  
Acts 3:3-6 – I give what I have

## **Revival of Outreach**

### **Perspective:**

- 1) We want others to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and to find peace, joy, and love in Him.
- 2) We want to recognize how God is working in people's lives.
- 3) We want to cooperate with how God is working in people's lives.
- 4) We want to attend to the needs of others.

### **Convictions and Principles of Action:**

- 1) Every human is made in the image of God and deserves love and respect.
- 2) We do not know people's history, and we never know the full story.
- 3) Jesus Christ is the answer to our deepest aches and longings.
- 4) Our own relationship with Jesus impels us to love others and to proclaim the Good News.
- 5) Outreach must flow from our own relationship with Jesus.
- 6) The corporal and spiritual works of mercy, when done with the love of Jesus, express the love of Jesus in the world.
- 7) Some people are given gifts by the Holy Spirit that are meant to be directed and used outside of parish programs and events. Pastors and parishes are meant to help people discern and use these gifts.
- 8) You will never see results if you never begin.
- 9) A smile goes a long way.

### **Planning Suggestions:**

- 1) Discern where the parish is called to make efforts of outreach.
- 2) Discern who in the parish is called to outreach and the gifts that they have.
- 3) Discern how the parish is called to aid those discerned in (2).
- 4) Start doing what you discern, and discern next steps as you see fruit.
- 5) Train those involved in outreach in the "Convictions and Principles of Action" above, in practical skills, and in considerations for their ministry in outreach.


### **Scriptures for Team Discernment Sessions:**

Mark 6:34 – Jesus is moved with compassion  
Matthew 25:31-46 – works of mercy  
Acts 2:43-47 and 4:32-37 – the early Church cares for its own  
1 John 4:7-12 – love one another  
James 2:14-17 – faith without works is dead  
Romans 12:9-21 – overcome evil with good  
Matthew 5:13-16 – salt and light



## STAY CONNECTED WITH US

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