



# Eucharistic Missionary Parish Playbook





# **# Overview and Impact**

A Eucharistic Missionary embodies the Eucharistic Revival and acts as leaven in their world through regular Eucharistic Encounters, the ongoing formation of a Eucharistic Identity, the cultivation of a Eucharistic Life, and living a Eucharistic Mission.

The National Eucharistic Revival was never about a moment, but a movement. The Lord has done incredible works over the last three years and the mission is only beginning. Eucharistic Revival is an ongoing, grassroots effort that continues to grow in families, neighborhoods, and communities. Eucharistic Missionaries are a critical part of ongoing Eucharistic Revival in the United States.

Eucharistic Missionaries are Catholics who have strive to deepen their relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, engage in ongoing spiritual formation, especially in regards to the Eucharist, and feel a desire and call from Jesus to walk with others in Eucharistic friendship.

The presence of Eucharistic Missionaries at your parish can radically transform your community and culture by raising the level of Eucharistic formation and belief among parishioners as well as fostering a vibrant community that welcomes those seeking a relationship with Jesus. Eucharistic Missionaries become an engine for evangelization at your parish through simple, grassroots accompaniment.

Anyone at your parish can become a Eucharistic Missionary as long as they are willing to make a commitment to a spiritual and formation routine for one year. Every year on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, returning Eucharistic Missionaries are blessed and sent alongside new Eucharistic Missionaries. These individuals will engage in prayer and formation that enable them to go into their families, neighborhoods, and parish and invite people into a relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist. Over time, this effort will bear tremendous fruit, both in the life of the Eucharistic Missionaries and in all of those whom they encounter.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The addition of Eucharistic Missionaries at your parish is simple; it does not require additional programming, staffing, or resources, though you may choose to add formational programming through small groups, delegate staff to be responsible for oversight of Eucharistic Missionaries, and you may consider purchasing resources to support this group. Instead, Eucharistic Missionaries may come from existing parish groups and ministries or as individuals that simply feel called to do more for their parish. This "low-impact" model on your ministry has little risk and a great deal of upside in the life of your parish.

There are three pathways for implementing a Eucharistic Missionary cohort at your parish:

- 1. Invite members of existing groups and ministries to become Eucharistic Missionaries. This is the recommended implementation route. You likely have several groups and ministries that meet regularly at your parish; invite them to become Eucharistic Missionaries. Peer leaders in your youth group, the Knights of Columbus, liturgical ministers, and any other group of engaged parishioners make great candidates for Eucharistic Missionaries.
- 2. Create a Eucharistic Missionary group. Invite parishioners to join an intentional small group for Eucharistic Missionaries. You may create several of these groups to walk with each other through formation and in their Eucharistic Mission.
- 3. Invite Individual Participation. If your parish doesn't currently have the resources for the first two options, invite parishioners to engage in Eucharistic Missionary formation as individuals by providing them with a sign-up link through the National Eucharistic Revival website.

Once you identify your parish Eucharistic Missionaries, invite them to register on the National Eucharistic Revival website and sign up for an account on "Manna" where they will receive formation materials.

- eucharisticrevival.org/year-of-mission
- manna.eucharisticcongress.org

Eucharistic Missionaries can be formed, blessed, and sent out anytime during the year; we recommend conducting a formal invitation beginning in Lent with formation beginning after Easter and a blessing and sending on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ each year.

## **BLESSING AND SENDING**

At the end of the period of formation for Eucharistic Missionaries, individuals are invited to commit to spiritual practices, ongoing formation, community engagement, and missionary activity for the next year. We highly recommend blessing and sending forth Eucharistic Missionaries annually at your parish on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

It is important to bless Eucharistic Missionaries at your parish for three reasons:

- 1. A prayer of blessing is vital for the work missionaries will do moving forward.
- 2. The blessing and sending of missionaries at your parish ties them to the mission of your parish explicitly.
- 3. A public affirmation and recognition of Eucharistic Missionaries raises the profile of their work in your community and invites interest from others.

There are three options for a public blessing and sending of Eucharistic Missionaries:

- 1. Prior to the conclusion of the Sunday liturgy on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, utilize the blessing provided at the end of this playbook.
- 2. Following the Sunday liturgy, invite Eucharistic Missionaries to stay and utilize the longer prayer service found at the end of this playbook.
- 3. Find another time the week of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the Eucharistic Missionary blessing with a Holy Hour utilizing the longer prayer service found at the end of this playbook.

Eucharistic Missionaries that engage in formation as individuals will complete their formation by attending Mass and praying a commitment prayer privately during a holy hour near Corpus Christi. The individual commitment prayer can be found at the end of this playbook and it will be emailed to all registered Eucharistic Missionaries in the final week of the formation.

#### ONGOING FORMATION AND MISSION

After Eucharistic Missionaries are blessed and sent, they engage in weekly practices as an ongoing commitment to the four pillars of Eucharistic Mission. These practices include:

- A weekly holy hour and attendance at one daily Mass (in addition to the Sunday obligation)
- Monthly reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Engagement in parish ministries and/or ministries of outreach to those on peripheries
  of the community
- Commitment to walking with one individual in their family, neighborhood, or parish with accompanying prayer and fasting for their conversion.
- Ongoing formation in a Eucharistic identity at the parish and through the Manna platform.

This ongoing formation is an important part of growing as a Eucharistic Missionary. The National Eucharistic Congress provides resources for Eucharistic Missionaries through the Manna platform. We also recommend that Eucharistic Missionaries join a small group community at their parish for ongoing formation and fellowship.

You may consider holding special formation meetings throughout the year for Eucharistic Missionaries at your parish by utilizing other resources for these meetings or by utilizing resources found on the Manna app.

# PRAYERS FOR BLESSING AND SENDING

**OPTION 1:** Prayer after communion on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

Be sure to check with your local ordinary for necessary permissions in extending this blessing and sending at the end of your liturgy and to coordinate this blessing with your parish liturgy team.

Invite Eucharistic Missionaries to stand or to come forward for a blessing. Prior to the blessing, the presider may choose to say a few words about the importance of Eucharistic Missionaries and their work in the coming year.

O Lord, you have given us your very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity as a sacred banquet to sustain us on this earthly pilgrimage. We beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bless + the servants who stand before you as Eucharistic Missionaries; strengthened by this precious Sacrament, they will go forward to share the Gospel message by their words and actions. Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in them. Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal them. Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, suffer in them for the good of others. Jesus rising in the Eucharist, give them new life and words that will bring renewal in the lives of others. Jesus loving in the Eucharist, allow them to love like you. Lord Jesus Christ, pour out your healing love on these Eucharistic Missionaries that they may cooperate with the work of your Holy Spirit and draw many to the banquet of life. May that same Spirit fall upon them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **OPTION 2:** Prayer Service

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Presider makes the sign of the cross and then offers a few words of encouragement and reflection for the Eucharistic Missionaries.

Lord Jesus Christ, we gather together for the commissioning of these Eucharistic Missionaries, that they may be witnesses to your grace, love, and power, in a particular way through the Eucharist. Open their ears to the words of Sacred Scripture and prepare their hearts to receive your blessing as they are sent forth for the life of the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Gospel: Luke 22:14-20

Reflection: At this time, the presider offers a short reflection on the readings, the call to be a Eucharistic Missionary, and the importance of ongoing Eucharistic Revival.

#### **Prayers of Petition:**

Utilize the following prayers of petition and add any additional prayers of petition that are relevant to your parish community:

For a deeper love and reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist among all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That those sent forth as Eucharistic Missionaries may be bold and joyful witnesses of Christ's real presence, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the grace of unity in the Body of Christ, that through the Eucharist, divisions may be healed and communion restored, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the fruits of the Eucharist—charity, humility, and missionary zeal—may flourish in the hearts of those sent forth, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are distant from the Church or unaware of Christ's presence in the Eucharist, that they may be drawn to the altar of life, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who hunger for meaning, love, and truth, that they may discover the fulfillment of their longing in the Bread of Life, let us pray to the Lord.

#### R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

#### The Lord's Prayer

Confident that the Lord hears our prayers and desires to bring continued revival to our hearts, we pray together the words that Jesus gave us:

Group prays the Lord's Prayer together

#### **Prayer of Blessing**

O Lord, you have given us your very Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity as a sacred banquet to sustain us on this earthly pilgrimage. We beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bless + the servants who stand before you as Eucharistic Missionaries; strengthened by this precious Sacrament, they will go forward to share the Gospel message by their words and actions. Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in them. Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal them. Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, suffer in them for the good of others. Jesus rising in the Eucharist, give them new life and words that will bring renewal in the lives of others. Jesus loving in the Eucharist, allow them to love like you. Lord Jesus Christ, pour out your healing love on these Eucharistic Missionaries that they may cooperate with the work of your Holy Spirit and draw many to the banquet of life. May that same Spirit fall upon them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **Closing Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord be with you R/. And with your spirit

May almighty God bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **R/. Amen.** 

#### **OPTION 3:** Individual Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus Christ, I love you and I wish to invite others to know your love, healing presence, and the joy that comes from a relationship with you. I commit to living as a Eucharistic Missionary in your service, seeking to encounter you regularly in the Blessed Sacrament, to form my identity in your identity, to live my life with you at the center, and to go out on mission to share the Gospel message with my family, neighborhood, and community. Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in me. Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me. Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, suffer in me. Jesus rising in the Eucharist, give me new life and words that will bring renewal in the lives of others. Jesus loving in the Eucharist, allow me to love like you. Lord Jesus Christ, I give you my life so that others may come to know you. Please bless my efforts so that they may bear fruit in my life and in the lives of others. Amen.