

## DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON

### Guidelines for a Sunday celebration when no priest is available

**In the Diocese of Crookston, permission for such a celebration must be granted in advance by the local Ordinary.**

- 1) "The person who leads the community at a Sunday celebration in the absence of a priest, whether a deacon or a layperson, is called the leader." (Gathered *in* Steadfast Faith, Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, USCC 1991, "Specific norms" 055, A)
- 2) Lay Leaders are to avoid all things proper to a priest or a deacon. They do not use the greeting before the Gospel ("The Lord be with you") or any of the other greetings designated for a deacon or a priest. Nor do they use the priestly or diaconal forms of blessing. Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest provides proper forms of blessing for laypersons. When giving a blessing, a layperson does not make the sign of the cross over the people." (Gathered in Steadfast Faith 055, C)
- 3) "The chair used by a lay leader must be different from the presidential chair used by a priest or a deacon, and normally it should be placed outside the sanctuary in close proximity to the assembly. The ambo is reserved for the Liturgy of the Word. The altar is used only when the Blessed Sacrament is placed on it before the distribution of Holy Communion, if it is included in the celebration." (Gathered in Steadfast Faith 055, D)
- 4) "The readings assigned in the Lectionary for a particular Sunday, solemnity, or feast are always to be used. On occasions when there are no assigned readings or a selection is provided, the minister may choose appropriate readings. On Sundays and solemnities three readings are used, as at Mass. Whenever possible, a sung responsorial psalm should follow the first reading." (Gathered *in* Steadfast Faith, 055, E)
- 5) "The preaching of a homily is part of most liturgical rites and is, by its very definition, reserved to a priest or a deacon. However, the bishop may allow a layperson who is properly trained to explain the Word of God at Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest or a deacon and at other specific occasions." (GSF, 055, F)
  - a. **In the Diocese of Crookston, a layperson is not to preach at a Sunday celebration in the absence of a priest. A time of silent meditation may follow the gospel reading when a lay person leads.**
- 6) There is no opening procession for a Sunday celebration in the absence of a priest, thus no candles are carried in. When the distribution of Holy Communion follows the liturgy of the Word, candles are lighted at the altar before the Blessed Sacrament is brought to it from the place of reservation. (cf. Gathered in Steadfast Faith #55, G)
- 7) The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion gives the lay leader communion first; and then the lay leader gives communion to the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. All then go to distribute communion to the entire assembly.
- 8) The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion returns any remaining Eucharist to the tabernacle.
- 9) "A layperson, may impart any of the blessings given in the Book of Blessings that are not reserved to a bishop, a priest, or a deacon." (Gathered in Steadfast Faith, #55,)