OPENING REFLECTION

- Meet in the quiet, dimly lit worship space to pray Evening Prayer as a group before moving to the meeting space.
- If summer weather cooperates, meet outdoors for prayer. Fill a large bowl with water as a strong symbol. Noting that Ordinary Time isn’t really “ordinary” but rather a celebration of grace in life in Christ because of Baptism. Ask the priest to bless the water with the blessing in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 311A; renew baptismal promises and conclude with the Apostles’ Creed.

DETERMINE AND DEVELOP PRIORITIES

- Ask and list: what is liturgically most important to full, conscious, and active participation at our parish? (For example, is it the music selection and accompaniment? New/different choirs? Are more hospitality ministers needed? Does the art and environment need to be improved? Is formation needed for the readers? Do more age groups need to be invited to serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion?) Use this information to plan programming updates for fall.
- Plan a field trip to a newly dedicated church in the area. Have a member of the building committee talk to the group about the liturgical decisions for the worship space. Designate one member to take notes on decisions made for liturgical celebration—from the plan for the parking lot through those for the sacristy and chapel of reservation. Use these notes to refresh your understanding of the guidelines available in Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000; in Spanish, 2014). Even if your parish is not planning to build or renovate, it is good to review how the worship space shapes the way that we pray.
- Set two or three goals involving the sacramental life of the parish, perhaps considering how a wedding, funeral, or first Holy Communion liturgy can be more prayerful or inclusive. Revisit these goals next month, making positive recommendations.
- Invite the parish catechetical leader to a summer worship meeting; discover and discuss ways that the Worship Committee can assist and intersect with adult faith formation as well as the children/youth catechetical program. Make plans for collaboration and dialogue.
- Seasonal challenge: the environment for worship can become static during the summer months. Create a subgroup to envision and implement deepening greens of summer and seasonal design for a set period of about eight weeks.
- Make time to celebrate the work of the Worship Committee. Plan ten minutes to commend the preparation for seasons or celebrations that have been positive and life-giving for the parish community.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Plan a simple picnic for after the Vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For the Solemnity of the Assumption consider a very early morning Mass for workers with juice and a doughnut to go. Include young adults and youth as ministers for these Masses.
- Review the article “Celebrating National Holidays” in this issue and determine if the parish celebrates the Paschal Mystery worthily on these special days. If the United States and papal flags are within the sanctuary, gather suggestions of places outside the sanctuary where the flags might be displayed and then move them.
- Request that prior to the next meeting all read “Forming Youth for Liturgy: Liturgists and Catechists in Collaboration” in this issue of Pastoral Liturgy. Also, provide members with a copy of For Ages Unending: The Ministry of Liturgy With Adolescents (the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers, 2014); available through www.fdlc.org. This publication intends to encourage, understand, and present strategies for addressing the challenge of vibrant liturgical ministry with adolescents. (English and Spanish included under the same cover.)

At www.PastoralLiturgy.org

Find and share this article with parish staff and the liturgy committee at the following URL: http://www.pastoralliturgy.org/resources/WorshipMeetingAgenda.pdf