

USCCB's National Eucharistic Revival Releases Leader's Playbook as Year Of The Parish Nears

Manual of Suggested Resources Developed for Pastors and Parish Leaders

Washington, D.C., May 1, 2023—The National Eucharistic Revival eagerly invites parishes into the grassroots movement to restore understanding and devotion to the source and summit of the Catholic faith with a new Leader's Playbook for the Year of Parish Revival. As the multi-year National Eucharistic Revival prepares to enter into the Year of the Parish on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the Leader's Playbook is a guide offering concrete steps for parishes to bolster their Eucharistic culture and effectively share the gift of the Eucharist with all Catholics in the pews, but especially those who have not fully encountered Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

As with the Playbook for the Year of the Diocese, which was developed in the fall of 2022, this Leader's Playbook is likewise built around the four pillars that uphold the movement of the Revival—Reinvigorating Devotion, Personal Encounter, Robust Faith Formation, and Missionary Sending. Organized into four “invitations,” designed to be adapted and customized for implementation within each unique pastoral setting, the Leader's Playbook is meant to help answer the question, “What are we being asked to do to live out the Year of Parish Revival?”

“We must remember the power and responsibility of the local parish, especially in light of the jarring statistics about Eucharistic beliefs among Catholics. Seven in ten Catholics believe the Eucharist is merely a symbol, an encounter with an ‘it’ instead of a ‘who,’” asserted Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. “So many Catholics are missing the opportunity to know Jesus Christ. In this pivotal year of the Revival, the bishops of the United States are asking every parish to take one step further in their current efforts to revive parishioners in their love with Jesus in the Eucharist and to send them forth to share this love with others.”

The Leader's Playbook highlights “best practices” to coincide with each of the four Revival pillars using the example of various dioceses across the country that have already put into place a number of impactful initiatives and events. Some of the efforts include renewing the art of celebrating the Mass with workshops and refreshed guidelines, instituting monthly holy hour nights and healing Masses, dedicating a series of Sunday homilies to Eucharistic teaching with small group formation, and brainstorming creative ways to revive hospitality within a parish.

“We ultimately want the Leader's Playbook to be a place for parishes to begin their discernment, a companion guide that offers ideas, along with methods for implementation, for going deeper in the Revival,” said Joel Stepanek, executive team member for the Revival and Chief Mission Officer for the National Eucharistic Congress. “Above all, we recognize that the primary touchpoint with the faith is at the local parish. Though we have many incredible movements and apostolates around the country, it is still in local parishes that the Mass is celebrated, and Jesus in the Eucharist is encountered and received.”

The Leader's Playbook is an offering to support Year Two of the National Eucharistic Revival's strategic three-year focus on formation. It is currently available for download at www.eucharisticrevival.org/lead in English and Spanish.

Individuals are encouraged to be part of the Revival by signing up for the [weekly newsletter](#) to stay apprised of news associated with National Eucharistic Revival events as well as inspiration, testimonies, and Eucharistic teachings. [Registration](#) for the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis is now open, and families, individuals, and groups are invited to begin making plans to attend.

For more information and a complete press kit, visit www.eucharisticrevival.org/parish-playbook-press-kit.

To schedule an interview with Joel Stepanek, contact Carrie Kline at media@eucharisticcongress.org.

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