



Leader's Playbook : Year 1

YEAR OF DIOCESAN REVIVAL

JUNE 2022- JUNE 2023



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**



The Eucharistic Revival is intended to be far more than a series of events or a program. It aims to be a movement that enkindles a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and renews the Church.



BISHOP ANDREW COZZENS

Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis



Dear Friends in Christ,


The Eucharistic Revival is far more than a series of events or a program. It is a movement initiated by our bishops that seeks to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. This Leader's Playbook offers recommendations for activities, with corresponding timelines through 2025, to serve a transformation in the hearts and lives of believers through a deeper encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. The diocesan curia has a particular role in supporting the bishop in the National Eucharistic Revival as "the diocesan curia should be so organized that it is an appropriate instrument for the bishop, not only for administering the diocese but also for carrying out the works of the apostolate" (*Christus Dominus*, no. 27).

The Lord is calling us to witness to his great love and to be a light to the nations. Our world is deeply in need of this witness. The Church herself needs to be strengthened in her Eucharistic life so that we can respond to our call to share the gift of Jesus' love "for the life of the world" (Jn 6:51). As we enter more deeply into the National Eucharistic Revival, we are mindful of the essential requirement of spiritual preparation and the desire for ongoing transformation that are part of being a missionary disciple. Therefore, in addition to pastoral resources and logistical details in this Leader's Playbook, we also offer suggestions that are focused on details that are outside of the logistical planning.

Please note that the following suggestions are designed primarily for those in leadership roles at the diocesan level, at the parish level, and in Catholic schools. Once those in leadership have started the process of spiritual preparation, the same preparation will begin with the group under their care. This will allow all who participate in this process to experience long-lasting transformation after the events have taken place. Please visit our website, www.EucharisticRevival.org, for resources throughout the Revival. We expect that many dioceses and parishes will also develop their own incredible ideas, and we hope you will share them with us—including through the "share a testimony" section of our website.

Thank you for saying "yes" to this invitation from our Eucharistic Lord! May Our Lady of Guadalupe and Bl. Carlo Acutis intercede on behalf of our response.

Fraternally yours in Christ,



Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Chairman
USCCB's Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis



Our own moment of crisis begs for no surer response than the Eucharist can offer, and the potential returns of allowing Jesus his central role are literally eternal.



SR. ALICIA TORRES, F.E.

Executive Team, National Eucharistic Revival



A National Revival

The world needs Our Savior, especially right now, but the Church is wounded and we sometimes struggle to respond to the needs of our time. We have wandered from the source and summit of our faith, Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharistic Revival is a call back to the heart of the faith so that we can be vessels of Christ in our families, communities, and parishes.

Scandal, division, disease, and doubt. The Church has withstood each of these throughout our very human history. But today we confront all of them, all at once. Our response in this moment is pivotal.

The Holy Spirit invites our Church into an era of healing and renewal, returning the Church to our apostolic roots to encounter and rediscover Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Flowing from this movement will be tens of thousands of Catholics commissioned into Eucharistic mission, accompanying those in need, and leading others into an intimate encounter and relationship with the Real Presence of Jesus Christ.

This Eucharistic movement is national in scale but local in reach. Each of us can close our eyes and picture that loved one—the one who has walked away from the faith or may have never known the Lord. The Revival exists to equip YOU to reach that person. It seeks to make passionate disciples of everyday Catholics in the pews who know the love and refuge that exists in the Holy Eucharist.

The Revival is a concentrated effort of believing Catholics to rally together and lift up the Eucharist in our own hearts, in the lives of our neighbors, and within the Church. It is time to restore the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Catholic faith in America.

THE CHURCH NEEDS HEALING. AND THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS.

- ◆ **31%**
CATHOLICS WHO KNOW AND BELIEVE IN THE EUCHARIST¹
- ◆ **39%**
CATHOLICS WHO ATTEND MASS WEEKLY²
- ◆ **-10,776**
THE DECREASE IN PRIESTS SINCE 2000³
- ◆ **12,000,000+**
INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE HAD SERIOUS THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE DURING THE LAST YEAR IN THE UNITED STATES⁴
- ◆ FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION, THE NUMBER OF ADULTS BELONGING TO A CHURCH OR CONGREGATION HAS FALLEN **BELOW 50%**⁵

¹Gregory A. Smith, "Just One-Third of U.S. Catholics Agree with Their Church That Eucharist Is Body, Blood of Christ," Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, May 30, 2020), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/05/transubstantiation-eucharist-u-s-catholics/>. ²Chapter 2: Participation in Catholic Rites and Observances," Pew Research Center's Religion & Public Life Project (Pew Research Center, April 26, 2022), <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2015/09/02/cha-pter-2-participation-in-catholic-rites-and-observances/>. ³Frequently Requested Church Statistics," Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), accessed August 25, 2022, <https://cara.georgetown.edu/frequently-requested-church-statistics/>. ⁴Facts about Suicide," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, July 25, 2022), <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/index.html>. ⁵Jeffrey M. Jones, "U.S. Church Membership Falls below Majority for First Time," Gallup.com (Gallup, November 20, 2021), <https://news.gallup.com/poll/341963/church-membership-falls-below-majority-first-time.aspx>.



***If angels could be jealous of men,
they would be so for one reason:
Holy Communion.***



ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE



The Revival at a Glance

**PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS, REINVIGORATING DEVOTION,
DEEPENING FORMATION, MISSIONARY SENDING**

The National Eucharistic Revival is leading the Church in the United States back to our apostolic roots through encounter with and rediscovery of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Through moments of healing, conversion, and formation, the Church will be unified, so that she is more adequately equipped to live out her mission.



Impact

Response to this call will bear much fruit!

- ◆ The Church in the United States will **unify** around the source and summit of our faith.
- ◆ We will experience **healing** as individuals and as a nation, restored to wholeness in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord.
- ◆ Christ will draw closer to all hearts than ever before, deepening **conversion** and bringing with him the peace only he can provide.
- ◆ Through intentional **formation**, more Catholics and non-Catholics will come to believe in the Real Presence and have a living relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit will lead individuals and communities to use their talents in a **grassroots outpouring** of creativity, devotion, and missionary zeal.



*The Eucharist is everything,
because from the Eucharist,
everything is.*



ST. PETER JULIAN EYMARD



National Resources for Local Impact

The nature of the Eucharistic Revival movement is primarily grassroots, which means it will look different from place to place. There is no program to download or formula to follow. Our Lord needs you to respond to his invitation both personally and pastorally in a way that fits the culture and needs of your community.

A national team of intercessors is collecting resources that will empower your response to his inspirations and support you in your leadership role, beginning with a framework you can use in your discernment and planning. As we see fruitful initiatives bubble up throughout the country, we will build and share specific resources with more details on how to execute similar initiatives at the local level as you feel called.



Getting Started

Before any plans are made, gather your team to pray. Give the Holy Spirit permission to move in and through you during the Revival. As your local response takes shape, prayerfully consider how parishes can begin to respond along with your diocese as a whole.

Here are the four pillars of the Revival. Use them as a springboard to brainstorm initiatives that will light your community on fire with love for Jesus. The ideas to follow are meant to spark creative, effective, and practical approaches that fit the character of your diocese, rather than rigid direction. We look forward to the diverse expressions of Eucharistic love which will grow from these mere seeds!

- **PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS: Bring your people to Jesus.**
- **REINVIGORATING DEVOTION: Receive Jesus. Worship Jesus.**
- **DEEPENING FORMATION: Learn and preach the truth about Jesus.**
- **MISSIONARY SENDING: Go out and bring Jesus to the world.**



PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS

Create opportunities for your team members and for the faithful to gather in a moment of encounter with Our Lord. Throughout history, starting at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has used the energy created through gathering as a way to usher new movements and transformations in our Church.

The following are some practical ways to foster personal encounters with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.



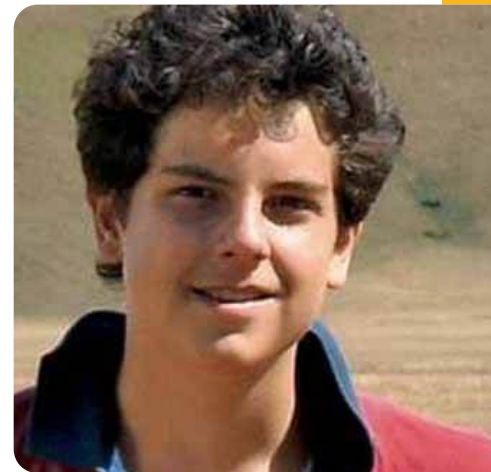
First Things First

Encounter Him

As a leader, your role in the Revival is an important one, especially during the Year of Diocesan Revival. Be careful not to allow your own spiritual practice to fall by the wayside as you undertake this special form of service to your community and the Lord!

Stay consistent in your personal prayer. Dialogue with Jesus is the best way to stay attuned to his voice, which is an essential part of ministry!

- ◆ Invite a National Eucharistic Preacher to ignite Eucharistic faith in your diocese.
- ◆ Plan ahead for the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress! Many diocesan and parish groups will charter buses and make a pilgrimage to this historic event.
- ◆ Bring Jesus out in public with bold Eucharistic processions.
- ◆ Request a visit from the relics of Bl. Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia, special intercessors for the Revival.
- ◆ Schedule Mercy Nights or other forums for adoration and prayer in high-profile areas of the diocese.
- ◆ Find host parishes for Advent and Lent adoration series.
- ◆ Center parish missions/retreats on the Eucharist, offering adoration and Confession as avenues for encounter with Our Lord.
- ◆ Focus annual diocesan-wide events on the Eucharist, such as men's or women's conferences, youth rallies, and young adult events. Motivate attendees to take leadership roles in the Revival.





REINVIGORATING DEVOTION

How we worship matters. Emphasize reverence in the liturgy and elevate the practice of Eucharistic devotions, prioritizing an increase in opportunities for adoration and both parish and diocesan Eucharistic processions. This provides a public witness while strengthening the faith and unity of Catholics in your community.

Here are some practical ways to reinvigorate devotion to the Eucharist in your diocese.

- ◆ Foster a culture of intercessory prayer among the faithful, religious, and clergy of the diocese, and provide periodic updates by which they can continually refocus their intercession.
- ◆ Invite presbyteral and parish leaders to sign up for one or more weekly Holy Hours dedicated to interceding for the National Eucharistic Revival.
- ◆ Create a prayer card for the success of the Revival and the renewal of Eucharistic faith in your community.



- ◆ Identify and share inspiring stories about the Eucharist (video, audio, and written) such as:
 - testimonials from people in the diocese witnessing about their faith and love for Jesus in the Eucharist;
 - stories of Eucharistic miracles;
 - the transformative power of the Eucharist in the lives of the saints;
 - how to cultivate a renewed and deeper Eucharistic focus in the home.
- ◆ Promote the practice of short visits to the Blessed Sacrament in local churches and chapels. (This may involve encouraging parishes to have more times when the church is open for prayer.)
- ◆ Promote Eucharistic adoration by identifying centers of adoration throughout your diocese. Instruct the faithful on how to spend time in silent prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist and how to make a Holy Hour.
- ◆ Include a regular column in your diocesan newspaper focused on the Eucharist and periodically include powerful testimonies of Eucharistic faith.
- ◆ Consider focusing the messaging of the annual appeal/bishop's appeal in the area of the Eucharist.
- ◆ Invite diocesan staff to promote Eucharistic prayer and seek renewal in their offices.



First Things First

Prioritize Him

You can't spread a devotion you don't have! Attend daily Mass if you are able, and commit to an extra hour of Eucharistic adoration each week. Jesus will honor your efforts with an outpouring of grace in your personal life and your ministry.



DEEPENING FORMATION

With more than 50% of Catholics not knowing the Church's doctrine on the Real Presence, a bold clarity in the true teaching of the Church is necessary to bring understanding. Most Catholics who believe the Eucharist is simply symbolic think this is the official Church teaching.

This demographic is your most immediate opportunity to move the needle toward belief in the Eucharist in your community.



First Things First

Pursue Him

The more we enhance our personal understanding of the liturgy, the more equipped we will be to spread appreciation for this central aspect of our faith.

Consider taking a course on *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church*, available for free on the Learn page of the [National Eucharistic Revival](#) website, and familiarize yourself with Eucharistic teachings from the Doctors of the Church and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

- ◆ Share catechesis on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Consider also catechesis on important Eucharistic practices such as Eucharistic fasts, proper reception of Holy Communion, the proper disposition to receive Holy Communion, and the importance of the conversion of life needed upon receiving the Eucharist.
- ◆ Share the free resource from the [McGrath Institute for Church Life](#) with the priests of the diocese: “Program in Priestly Renewal: Eucharistic Revival.”
- ◆ Provide renewed formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- ◆ Use convocations, study days, and days of recollection to focus on the *ars celebrandi* as a spiritual reality.
- ◆ Teach the lay faithful to make remote and proximate preparation for the reception of Jesus in the Eucharist—especially Confession, penitential practices, and other spiritual exercises.
- ◆ Explore options for scheduling days of renewal and formation for clergy, religious, and diocesan leaders with a Eucharistic focus.
- ◆ Teach how to fruitfully pray the Mass, open oneself more fully to the grace of receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, and the meaning of full, conscious, and active participation.
- ◆ Focus diocesan events for teachers and catechists on the Eucharist through prayer, teaching, and exhortation.
- ◆ Invite diocesan schools and catechetical offices to frame a curriculum that promotes revival in schools and religious education.
- ◆ Attend virtual informational sessions and ongoing webinars structured to support diocesan and parish leaders.
- ◆ Encourage leaders and staff to sign up for the *Heart of the Revival* newsletter and share details about this opportunity via diocesan communication channels.



MISSIONARY SENDING

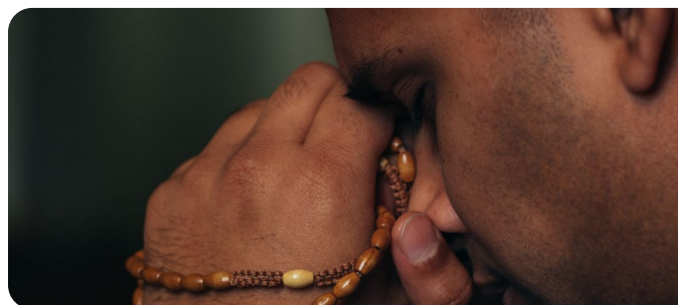
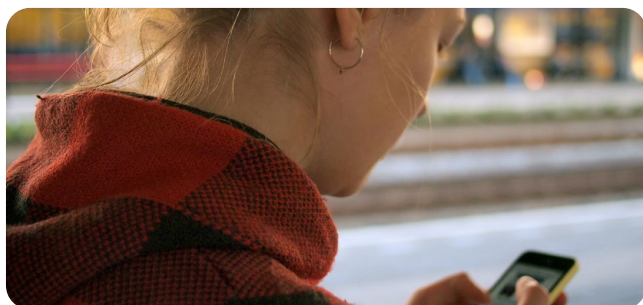
Clergy and liturgical renewal will be an early focus, particularly in the Year of Diocesan Revival, to build a foundation for the missionary renewal of the broader Church. Filled with refreshed Eucharistic zeal, clergy and believers will be instrumental in clarifying the reality of the Real Presence with members of their community who misunderstand this teaching as merely symbolic.

Mobilize those who already know and believe the Church's teaching on the Real Presence to become leaders in their parishes. The success of the Year of Parish Revival will depend on the foundation you build within the Year of Diocesan Revival.

- ◆ Participate in Christ's Eucharistic gift of self through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, imitating his sacrificial model of charity and service.
- ◆ Consider consistent messaging through internet, social media platforms, and other forms of communication to the faithful of the diocese informing, reminding, and re-reminding the faithful of the "why, who, how, and what" of the Eucharistic Revival.
- ◆ Encourage Catholic organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Legion of Mary, Knights of Columbus, etc., to inform and motivate their members about the Revival, and, above all, to become more deeply converted and devoted to Jesus in the Eucharist.
- ◆ Invite leaders to sign up to become Eucharistic Missionaries.



- ◆ Reach out to local religious communities to ask for prayers for the success of the National Eucharistic Revival at the local and national levels.
- ◆ Cultivate relationships with pastors to facilitate cooperation in the Year of Parish Revival.



Fruits to Come

**GOD DESIRES TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS
THROUGH YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS REVIVAL!**

This first year of the Revival is about personal transformation among those in leadership and setting the foundation for a fruitful Year of Parish Revival. Your primary responsibility as a leader is to be both attentive and responsive to God's voice. This grows easier the closer you draw to his heart in your own spiritual journey.

Remember, you are not alone! We are compiling additional resources and guides to help you organize sanctifying events and enliven formation. Throughout this entire process you will be covered in the prayers of the national team of intercessors, the saints, and the angels!



***Lord, by the words of consecration
the substance of the bread and wine is converted
into the substance of your Body and Blood.
All powerful Lord, say over me the word which
will change me into You.***



ST. ANTHONY MARY CLARET

Daily Consecration Prayer

FROM ST. PETER JULIAN EYMARD

O my God, in a spirit of adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition
I offer you the actions and sufferings of this day
in union with the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,
in order to render to that adorable Heart dwelling among us,
the debt of justice and love due to his august Presence,
and moreover to offer to your Divine Majesty through him,
with him and in him the glory that he himself renders you here on earth.
Lastly, I make this offering to obtain by means of that Almighty Mediator,
peace for the Church, salvation for our country and all the other graces
for which we call on you. Amen!