



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Archbishop

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September 16, 2024

RE: Together Sunday

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As we anticipate the upcoming season of Advent, I invite you to strongly consider utilizing new resources and training being made available to help Families of Parishes invite and welcome disengaged Catholics back to weekly participation in the Mass.

We are calling this effort **Together Sunday**, reflecting the idea that worship is best **together** – together with our Lord in the Eucharist and together with each other as the people of God. You are all aware of the long-term decline in Mass attendance. In this archdiocese, the 2023 October count was down 29% versus ten years ago and 38% versus fifteen years ago. Additionally, many Families of Parishes are about to embark on the “Culture” phase of Beacons of Light, making this a perfect opportunity to begin to instill a culture of proactive outreach and welcoming among both your staff and parishioners. Lastly, the National Eucharistic Revival, for which this is the “Year of Mission,” focuses on sharing the gift of the Eucharist through one-to-one invitation. Together Sunday has been created as a response to all of this.

This year we encourage parishes to celebrate Together Sunday on November 24, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. As the Sunday immediately prior to the First Sunday of Advent, this is a fitting rallying point for Families of Parishes (both staff and parishioners) to have invited disengaged Catholics back to Mass **and** be ready to warmly welcome them back. Recent studies indicate that over 70% of people who stop attending Mass do so for reasons that are more practical than theological. The top reasons include a recent move away from family or their home parish, or a change in life circumstance such as a family situation or new job. A cordial invitation from the parish or a friend may be all they need to come back to Church.

The archdiocesan offices of Parish Vitality, Evangelization and Communication have put together a Together Sunday resource page and will be conducting training webinars on Thursday, September 26 and Wednesday, October 2. Look for an invitation from the Center for Parish Vitality.

The goal of Beacons of Light is missionary discipleship, equipping Families of Parishes to form disciples and send them on mission, radiating the love of Christ to the world. This is, in fact, the mission of the Church. Please consider the resources and training of Together Sunday as a step toward realizing that goal within your Family of Parishes. God bless you and all your good work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

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RADIATE CHRIST