



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Pastors, Priests, Deacons and Parish Life Coordinators

**FROM:** Monsignor Carl A. Kemme  
Diocesan Administrator

**DATE:** September 2009

**SUBJECT:** *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*

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Dear Pastors, Priests, Deacons, and Parish Life Coordinators,

Included with the September monthly mailing is important information regarding provisions for the possibility of *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*. For several months and with the approval of Bishop Lucas and the review of the Presbyteral Council, a committee has been working on establishing the provisions and protocol to be used when Sunday Mass cannot be celebrated in any of our parishes or institutions. I ask that you carefully study this new policy. You will notice that there are two Emergency Plans envisioned in the policy. You will also notice that one plan requires explicit permission from the Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia or in his absence the Diocesan Bishop or Diocesan Administrator and one plan does not. Please follow these guidelines carefully.

You should also note that there will be several workshops designed for the training of clerical and lay leadership for these types of celebrations. I would highly encourage you as pastors, priests and parish life coordinators to attend one of these workshops and to send at least two individuals from your parish for this training. Deacons and deacon candidates are also required to attend. Registration and information regarding locations, cost, etc. is included.

While it is always the hope of the Church that the Celebration of the Mass is offered in all our parishes on Sunday, sometimes, due to local circumstances and emergencies, this may not always be possible. We still want to invite God's people to gather in prayer.

Thanking you for your interest and time in this important matter, I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Carl A. Kemme  
Diocesan Administrator