

Celebrating

The Parish Worship Commission *Worshipping Wisely and Well*

This past year, our parish was selected among the two hundred parishes in the Diocese to become a part of a pilot program in the Diocese called, *Worshipping Wisely and Well*. Darlene Bednarz, our Director of Liturgy and Fr. John Singler, Pastoral Team Member, answered the call and began a nine-week intensive seminar and training program. Joining them were staff members, priests, religious and lay faithful from 14 other parishes and institutions in the Diocese of Cleveland. The seminar began in October 2001 and will be completed in March of this year. Throughout the course, each participant was given an extensive list of Catechetical and Liturgical Documents to read and study and were expected to write a reflection paper on each assigned reading, as well as attend each "class" and participate in the discussions. Among the many assigned readings were the following: *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the General Roman Missal, The Lectionary for Mass, Issues in Liturgical Law, Norms Governing the Liturgical Calendar, Directory for Masses with Children, and Multi-Cultural Celebrations.*

The seminar was designed to create renewed appreciation and understanding of Liturgy and Worship, understanding the role of worship in the lives of the faithful, as well as encourage that same appreciation and love in the faithful who worship week after week, by being faithful to the guidelines and documents.

On the First Sunday of Advent, two weekend Masses were videotaped and forwarded to the Office of Pastoral Liturgy to be reviewed and evaluated by members of the Office's Liturgy and Worship Staff and adjunct members. To date, we haven't received the written evaluation.

With this Program in mind, our Worship Commission's focus became the same - to enter into a renewed study of Liturgy and to evaluate Worship at our parish level.

In light of keeping up our common experience of good worship and lively liturgy, the Worship Commission felt strongly about our weekday Mass schedule. In the discussion a question kept

being asked, "***Is the Mass time offered on the weekday at a time that is best able to be celebrated well?***"

A few members of the commission attended many of the weekday masses throughout the fall and winter months and have also asked, as have many of you, "***Would it be to our advantage to have more than one Mass a day?***"

At the same time, the commission identified that our parish community celebrates as many as **180** Funerals a year - and about three or four days a week there is an additional Mass. And, many who attend the daily mass also attend and celebrate the Funeral Mass as a supportive presence at the time of loss and sorrow.

But without putting the work of the commission aside, without failing to respond to many who have asked about another Mass each day, and in order to abide by our Liturgical and Catechetical Documents that direct us to good worship, we will begin to schedule a **second** Mass on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:00am for the Lenten Season **AND** this 9:00 am Mass will **REPLACE** the 6:30 am Mass after Easter. Also, the 8:00 am Saturday morning Mass will be eliminated beginning in April.

The Team and Staff appreciate the many who have engaged in this effort and encourage everyone to support these efforts as we are led to a renewed appreciation for the Liturgy, as so many more parishioners will be able to join together at Mass each day at the 9:00 am Mass.

