

# Collaborative Ministry

*Among all who are involved with regard to the rites, pastoral aspects, and music there should be harmony and diligence in the effective preparation of each liturgical celebration in accord with the Missal and other liturgical books*

The Eucharistic Celebration is an action of Christ and the Church, namely, the holy people united and ordered under the Bishop. It therefore pertains to the whole Body of the Church, manifests it, and has its effect upon it. It also affects the individual members of the Church in different ways, according to their different orders, duties, and actual participation. In this way, the Christian people, 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,' expresses its cohesion and its hierarchical ordering. All, therefore, whether they are ordained ministers or lay Christian faithful, in fulfilling their office or their duty, should carry out solely but completely that which pertains to them.

GIRM 91, 111

## Some Questions

- How is good coordination between ministries achieved? How might it be improved?
- What are the priorities with regard to ministers' initial and continuing formation?
- Is the diversity of the parish represented by the parish's commissioned ministers - e.g. with regards to age, race, culture, gender?

## Further References

- *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*: 91–111
- *Celebrating the Mass*: 25–51
- *Redemptionis Sacramentum*: 40, 43–47, 146–161

## Practical Points

- All members of the assembly contribute to the celebration of Mass in ways appropriate to their order or liturgical role.
- The spiritual formation of ministers is of equal importance with their 'technical' formation.
- Commissioning of the parish's liturgical ministers once a year indicates the importance of the service they offer. Suitable dates would include *Corpus Christi* or anniversary of the Dedication of the church. It might be combined with the commissioning of other ministers also, e.g. catechists
- Good communication of planning decisions helps ministers prepare well for their ministry
- Offering formation to different categories of ministers together helps develop their sense of mutual collaboration in the service of the parish.



## Questions for Groups

1. What is good about current practice?  
What concerns do you have?

4. Who is most directly involved in these matters, e.g. liturgical ministers?  
What formation/information is necessary to engage them in the renewal of current practice?

2. In what ways does the documentation affirm or challenge your current practice?

5. How will the assembly be engaged in the process?  
What, in particular, needs addressing at Sunday and/or weekday celebrations?

3. Prioritise the issues you have identified.

6. How will you know whether the formation has worked?