

THE REDEMPTORISTS

*“WITH HIM IS PLENTIFUL REDEMPTION”*

# A Redemptorist Parish Mission

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## MISSION PREPARATION

**REDEMPTORIST PARISH MISSION TEAM  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

## An Introductory Word...

The Redemptorist Congregation was founded in Italy in 1732 by St. Alphonsus Liguori to preach the Good News to the poor and most abandoned. From our inception Redemptorists have been involved with the mission preaching apostolate. We preach "With Him Is Plentiful Redemption", the motto of the Congregation. God has given us a gift for this special ministry, and we are happy to share the gift with you, members of our Church family.

You and others in your parish are planning a mission because you wish to aid and renew your fellow parishioners and Catholics in their faith journey. Likewise, you would like as many people as possible to be a part of the experience. We share your desire and dream!

In this booklet we present to you, from our parish mission experiences, ideas and suggestions for preparation to insure high attendance and participation by both regular churchgoers and inactive Catholics. *We presume that you will have a mission committee in place three or four months in advance of the mission as recommended in these pages.* Together we will work toward achieving our shared dream.

Should you have any questions or need for any clarification, the Redemptorist in contact with you will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for considering the possibility of the Redemptorists giving a mission in your parish.

***The Redemptorists***

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# Mission Facts

## What is a mission?

St. Alphonsus wanted his companions to be itinerant preachers of the Word of God. This original inspiration is carried out in many different ways, but especially by missionaries who visit a parish for a specific amount of time, in this case for four days, and offer a special series of sermons that invite people to a deeper love for God and a fuller living of the Christian life. Besides preaching, the parish mission may also include visits to people's homes, especially the sick; counseling, spiritual direction and opportunities for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The mission begins Sunday night and ends Wednesday night. Each service of the mission includes prayer, song, preaching of the Word, time for reflection and some ritual response to the preached Word. The services last about one hour and fifteen minutes, give or take five or ten minutes depending on attendance and other factors. Services are usually in the evening at a time to be determined by the parish, taking into account the parents of young children and the elderly.

The weekend that the mission starts, the missionaries preach at all the Masses. This Sunday homily also serves as a final invitation to and motivation for participating in the mission.

## Parish Priest(s), Deacon(s), Staff, and Pastoral Council:

Experience has taught us that it is best that the pastor, associates, deacons, staff, and pastoral council all be involved in the preparation, planning and promotion of the mission. The presence and participation of the parish leadership helps to emphasize the importance and the value of the mission experience.

## Parish Members:

We consider it vital to the goal and purpose of the mission that lay leadership be involved in the entire mission experience, including preparation and promotion.

Involving as many people as possible on the different mission committees spreads out the workload, lessens the burdens, and increases attendance and participation in the mission event.

These same people may cooperate with the pastor, staff, and council in any follow-up programs that evolve from the mission experience.

We suggest that no religious education, parish activities, or events be scheduled that would conflict with the evening mission services. Rather than tell people that there is no class or meeting, we suggest telling groups that "the class or meeting begins at [insert mission time] in the church!"

## Mission Facts [continued]

### Mission Preparation:

- About three months prior to the confirmed dates for the mission, a Redemptorist missionary will contact the pastor and/or the contact person in the parish.
- The missionary will remind them of the materials on the website which can be downloaded to assist in the preparations for the mission.
- He will also encourage them to organize the Parish Mission Committee (see page # 4) as soon as possible and decide how he can best assist the committee.
- This assistance can take many different forms:
  - ❖ conference call(s) with the entire committee present;
  - ❖ conference call(s) with the committee chairperson(s), the pastor and the contact person; (others who could participate in these conference calls - representatives from the staff and pastoral council, the school principal, the religious education director, and the youth minister).
- The conference call(s) will hopefully energize the mission committee members; give the missionaries and parish the chance to familiarize themselves with each other; and increase communication, ownership for the mission, and support for committee work.

Further consultation and direction, as needed, can be made available through individual phone calls and/or emails between the chairperson(s) and the missionary.

### Fees:

Although the message of the Gospel is God's free gift to us (see I Corinthians 9:18), we know that there are expenses for a mission. The mission team, together with the parish, will always strive for good stewardship in this area.

We ask the parish to pay for the missionaries' actual travel expenses for the mission. We use the most economical form of transportation that time and schedule permit. Driving costs are based on the current *IRS Standard Mileage Rate*, 55.5 cents per mile [1/1/2012] and are subject to change. A statement of travel expenses will be given to the pastor during the mission.

Expenses will not be a barrier for a parish wanting a mission but unable to afford the above costs. *If you are such a parish, please contact us to make appropriate arrangements.*

There is no set fee or stipend for the mission. Rather, we Redemptorists prefer and request a free-will offering. This offering takes the form of a collection at Wednesday night's Mass. The missionaries will announce this collection and distribute envelopes on Monday and Tuesday night. Since the missionaries are not salaried and receive no other standard diocesan benefits such as car allowance or health and retirement benefits, this collection is the sole means of their ministerial and personal support.

The parish is responsible for all other expenses related to the mission.

# Parish Pre-Mission Preparation List

## Things the Parish Community Can Do:

### Prayer and fasting:

1. Petition at all weekend Masses, beginning at least two months before the mission, for the success of the mission.
2. Parish meetings include the mission in their opening prayers.
3. Individual and group prayer
  - ❖ Formal or informal holy hours.
  - ❖ Set aside a special day each week, beginning two months before, for fasting.
  - ❖ Develop and circulate a mission prayer for people to use at home.

We strongly suggest that all parish meetings and activities (including Bingo, athletic games, and practices) that would conflict with the mission time should be rescheduled. Invite the people to the mission!

## Mission Committee Membership

- 1] This is meant as an example and suggestions of how to organize your parish mission committee.
- 2] From experience, we suggest that the positions marked with (\*) are of greatest importance on your parish mission committee; and the others may prove to be useful for your parish mission also, depending of course, on the reality of your parish life situation.
- 3] As you gather people for your mission committee, keep in mind that you want to involve as many parishioners in the mission preparations and experience as possible. The key to good attendance is *involvement, involvement, involvement*.
- 4] There are brief job descriptions for these folks which can be found in the following pages of this "Mission Preparation" booklet. The descriptions are offered and meant as **suggestions and ideas** for what these members of the committee can do to prepare for the mission. What is important, of course, is that you prepare for the mission, according to your reality and circumstances.

\*Chairperson(s):

\*Promotion:

\*Mailings:

\*Phone Calls and/or e-mails:

\*Refreshments (evening)

\*Liturgy and Music:

Transportation:

Childcare:

## Job Descriptions for Committee Members

### Chairperson:

To coordinate and oversee committee efforts and preparations. Also, with the assistance of the committee, the pastor and the pastoral council, choose a theme or title for the mission. Below are some examples from other Missions which may be of help in choosing your theme and/or title for your mission.

- 1] Come, Follow Me; I Call You by Name
- 2] We Are Called
- 3] I Say yes, my Lord
- 4] We are All the People of God
- 5] Many Faces in the House of God
- 6] Renew Us, Lord
- 7] ReNew, ReConnect, ReCommit
- 8] O Love of God, Gather Us
- 9] Renew Our Hearts O Lord
- 10] Return, Renew, Rejoice

Another possibility is to choose a Liturgical Song to serve as the theme song for the mission. This could be sung on the Sundays leading up to the mission and during each service of the Mission.

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### Promotion:

To coordinate and publicize the mission to the parish and broader local community.

Method:

- Brainstorm about how you can make use of
  - ❖ TV and radio public service announcements;
  - ❖ Newspaper advertisements and news releases
  - ❖ Bulletin fliers and announcements
  - ❖ Buttons, posters, a banner for the church;
  - ❖ An insert for the school and religious education programs
  - ❖ Involvement of the school and CCD kids in making posters and displaying them in the church, around the school, and in local stores;
  - ❖ [examples of fliers, posters, buttons, etc. may be seen on the final pages of this book]
- Remember that inactive Catholics will not hear Sunday announcements and prayers for the success of the mission, nor will they read the weekly bulletin. Mailings, phone calls and/or emails are essential for inactive Catholics to find out about the mission and know they are invited.

## **Job Descriptions** [continued]

### **Mailings:**

To prepare letters and fliers to be sent to neighboring Catholic parishes.

To prepare a letter and/or postcards to be sent to parishioners.

Method:

- Assist pastor in preparing letters to other Catholic parishes as well as to parishioners
- Prepare a postcard to be sent to all parishioners.
- Examples of letters, postcards, etc. may be found on the final pages of this booklet

### **Phone Calling and/or Emails**

To reach out and personally invite parishioners to the mission via phone calls and/or emails.

Method:

- Obtain a current list of parishioners and their phone numbers and email addresses.
- Adapt “Sample Telephone Message” [found on the final pages of this booklet] to meet your needs; the same information could be used for email messages
- Plan a training session for phone callers.

### **Refreshments:**

To provide refreshments after each evening service and create a comfortable, informal, and inviting atmosphere for people to gather.

Method:

- Recruit volunteers to serve refreshments, trying to get different people for each night.
- Seek different people and/or groups to provide the snacks for each night.
- Make sure chairs are available, if not already set up. Consider decorating and playing music so people will be inclined to come.

## Job Descriptions [continued]

### Liturgy and Music:

To review and prepare for the mission and each evening service. To work with the rest of the mission committee to determine and ready a “mission keepsake”.

Method:

- Include intercessions for the success of the mission at all weekend Masses beginning about six weeks prior to the time of the mission
- Prepare a mission prayer card as a way to invite members of the parish to pray for the success of the mission at home.
- Encourage all parish meetings to begin with the prayer for the mission and to include the success of the mission in their intentions.
- Consult with Childcare committee heads to determine whether there will be a Liturgy of the Word for Children during the mission. Recruit ministers accordingly.
- Review each evening’s service (see *Mission Services* booklet) and the placement and type of songs/music needed.
- Recruit members of the community to fill all ministerial roles for each service (a list of ministers needed for each evening service is located in the *Mission Services* booklet for each individual service.) Try not to use the same people twice, and seek out people who may or may not attend the mission otherwise.
- Inform ministers for each day of the mission, that they are asked to be in the sacristy a half hour before the start of the service to rehearse.
- Contact musicians and choirs to arrange what nights each will play and sing.
- Work with musicians and choirs to determine music in light of the theme for each night of the mission and the parish’s knowledge of music.
- Read “Instructions for Music Ministers”
- Each day of the mission check in with the missionaries to review needs and to go over the service itself.
- Secure symbols for each night’s service and determine where in the sanctuary these symbols will be enthroned. Also prepare such things as lectern stands and cloth and flowers that you may wish to use to adorn the places of enthronement.
- With the pastor make sure additional confessors are asked to help with confessions on Tuesday night.
- Normally, *no Wednesday morning Mass* would be scheduled since the closing service of the mission on Wednesday evening is a Eucharistic celebration. But the pastor should decide this.
- *Give a list of ministers and music for each evening mission service to the missionary(ries) by noon on the Sunday the mission starts.*
- The Redemptorist missionary who will preach at the final Mass of the mission will select the Scripture readings. These readings will fit the theme of the service. A sung responsorial psalm is preferred. If you wish to know the readings before the missionary(ries) arrive, please ask.

## **Job Descriptions** [continued]

### **Transportation:**

To arrange for those needing rides to and from the mission.

Be sure to communicate to those working on promotion, mailings, phone calls, emails the name and contact information of the person(s) who should be contacted if such assistance is needed.

### **Childcare:**

To provide childcare during the evening mission services.

Method:

- Consult and collaborate with those who provide this service for other parish functions.
- Recruit enough childcare providers to allow each adult to miss only one night of the mission.
- People from neighboring parishes might be willing to volunteer their time for an evening or more, freeing your own people to attend the mission.
- We suggest that you not recruit Confirmation candidates as a service project. We would prefer that they too participate in the mission.

## Instructions for Music Ministers

“Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord” Psalm 95:1

- ❖ Your ministry of music is an essential part of each Mission prayer service: we look forward to collaborating with you in the selection of the music and songs which will be used.
- ❖ Some appropriate prelude selections can be a wonderful way to create a prayerful atmosphere for the people as they arrive.
- ❖ A key element of all the services is the participation of the people; this includes involving them in the singing wherever such participation is mentioned and requested.
- ❖ Please review the list of “Service Music” and the texts for each service (all of which are included in the *Mission Services* booklets); wherever music is requested, please choose that which fits the service’s symbol and theme, and also that which the people know and sing well.
- ❖ The entrance procession and enthronement of the symbols may be extended at times, so please continue the gathering song until the Prayer Leader is in place, ready to begin the prayers.
- ❖ You will also notice that there are times during the services when the people will come forward for some ritual action (or when the people have their candles lit by some ministers passing along the aisles); at these times, please make sure there is music, as is mentioned in each service, until all the ministers are in their places to continue the service.
- ❖ In each service, after the sermon, a short period of silence followed by some musical selection is called for. This can be instrumental music, soloist, or some selection sung by the people, all seeking to enhance the people’s reflection and meditation.
- ❖ It is good that the Wednesday evening Eucharist compare musically to what the community is accustomed to at a Sunday Liturgy. Unless it is a feast day, the *Gloria* is not sung.
- ❖ The morning Masses on Monday and Tuesday can be what the parish normally celebrates musically.

If you have any questions, doubts or need for clarifications, please contact the mission committee chairperson(s), who will be in regular contact with one of the missionaries.

Thank you for sharing your musical talents and gifts.

## Sample Letter From the Pastor

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As a member of St. Joseph's Parish, please accept this invitation to attend our "Return – Renew – Rejoice" Parish Mission on September 8-11, 2012.

A parish mission is an opportunity for us all to renew our Catholic faith. The mission services consist of a proclamation of the Word of God, preaching and reflection, singing and praying together. It will be a grace-filled happening, an opportunity to experience in a special way the wonderful and incredible presence and love of God.

If you have abandoned the faith of your youth, the mission is for you. If you have been on again, off again in the living of your Catholic religion, the mission is for you. If you have wondered what is going on in the Church today, the mission is for you. If you have been faithful in your witness of your Catholic faith, the mission is for you. If you feel you need to know more about how to pray, the mission is for you. If you judge yourself to be in need of spiritual growth, the mission is for you. If you are a sinner or a saint, or somewhere in between, the mission is for you. The mission is for everyone, but especially for you and your family.

To make it easier for entire families to attend, there will be childcare available each evening. Just call Sue Tyke at 333-3333 and let her know how many children you will bring and their ages. Sue is arranging adult supervision for all age groups as well as quiet places for older children to do homework; she needs to know how many rooms to have available.

If you need a ride to and from the evening services, call Fred Frisbee at 444-4444. Fred can arrange transportation for you.

Our "Return – Renew – Rejoice" Parish Mission will begin on Sunday evening, September 8 at 7:00 pm, in Church. Mission services are also planned for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. Each service should last about an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes or so, and will be followed by a time for fellowship and refreshments.

Please join me in praying for the success of our parish mission and plan now to share with me this very special, grace-filled time.

In the love of Christ,

## Sample Telephone Message

*When calling, be sure you are upbeat and inviting. It is a good idea to make the calls seven to ten days before the start of the mission. Keep trying to get in touch with the people you are assigned should your first attempts fail to find anyone home. It might be your phone call that brings someone back to the Church and to a renewal of their faith.*

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Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling on behalf of our pastor, Fr. \_\_\_\_\_, and the parishioners of \_\_\_\_\_ Parish, to invite you to our parish mission entitled "[insert mission title/theme]".

We really hope that you will consider taking advantage of this opportunity to renew your faith, to reconnect with the members of our parish family and to recommit yourself as a follower of Jesus in the world today.

The mission will begin on Sunday evening, September 8 at [insert time mission starts] and will continue for four consecutive nights.

Childcare will be available. If you have any questions about the childcare and to make your arrangements, please call Sue Tyke at 333-3333, and she will assist you.

Should you need a ride, transportation will be available. To make your arrangements for transportation please call Fred Frisbee at 444-4444 who will be happy to assist you.

I'm really excited about the mission and hope that you will join us. Hope to see you Sunday evening, September 8, at [insert time mission begins].

**"Return, Renew, Rejoice"**  
**Mission Prayer**

Glory to you,  
O God of our journeys!  
Your love calls us  
to be Your people.  
By sharing our many and diverse  
gifts we share in Your mission.

We ask you, Lord,  
to shape us into  
a community of faith.  
Nourish us by Your Word and  
Sacraments, that we may grow  
into the image of Jesus.

Through the power  
of your Holy Spirit,  
and the blessings of our  
Parish Mission,  
heal us that we, in turn,  
may heal the wounded.

Form us to be instruments of  
love, justice, and peace  
in our world;  
Give us courage to take up  
our crosses  
and follow your son, Jesus;  
and then send us out to proclaim  
Your wonderful works.

AMEN

Join us for refreshments and  
socializing at the parish center  
following each evening's  
mission service.



If you need a ride to the  
mission please call Fred Frisbee  
at 444-4444



Childcare will be provided in  
the lower level of the church.  
Please call Sue Tyke at 333-3333



**"Return, Renew, Rejoice"**



**You are invited to our  
Parish Mission**

**September 8-11, 2012**

**Please join us in Church at  
7:00pm each evening.**

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St. Joseph Parish  
123 N. Main Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

111-7777-7777

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Please accept this invitation to participate in our "Return, Renew, Rejoice" Parish Mission on September 8-11.

A parish mission is an opportunity for us all to renew our Catholic faith. The mission services consist of a proclamation of the Word of God, preaching and reflection, singing and praying together. It will be a grace-filled happening, an opportunity to experience in a special way the wonderful and incredible presence and love of God.

If you have abandoned the faith of your youth, the mission is for you. If you have been on again, off again in the living of your Catholic religion, the mission is for you. If you have been faithful in your witness of your Catholic faith, the mission is for you. If you judge yourself to be in need of spiritual growth, the mission is for you. The mission is for everyone, but especially for you and your family.

The Redemptorist missionaries will invite you and me to a deeper relationship with the Lord. You will be amazed to discover how putting aside an hour each evening will create a lifetime of enrichment for your faith. Peace,

**FR. JOE, Pastor**

St. Joseph's Parish Mission

2012

## "Return, Renew, Rejoice"

7:00PM

Join us for one, more or all of the evening services where we'll examine various topics that will rejuvenate your faith and membership in our Catholic Community

Sunday – September 8



**SYMBOL - Bible**

**THEME -** God's plan of salvation and our response to God's Word of love  
**OBJECTIVE -** To deepen our awareness of God's great love for us.

**RITUAL ACTION -** Veneration of Bible

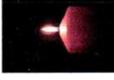
Monday - September 9



**SYMBOL - Cross**

**THEME -** Who is Jesus for Us?  
**OBJECTIVE –** To renew our faith in Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of all.  
**RITUAL ACTION -** Rite of Proclamation

Tuesday - September 10



**SYMBOL -** Easter Candle

**THEME -** Sin, Reconciliation and Healing  
**OBJECTIVE -** To experience the reconciliation and healing offered to us through the Redeemer.

**RITUAL ACTION -** Service of Light [Sacrament of Reconciliation]

Wednesday – September 11



**SYMBOL - Altar**

**THEME -** At the altar we seal our covenant with our God and are nourished with the Bread of Life to live our mission as baptized disciples

**OBJECTIVE -** To renew our commitment to live the Eucharist by giving testimony of our faith in our daily lives.

**RITUAL ACTION -** Celebration of Mass

## St. Ann's Parish

# It's Here! Our Parish Mission Starts Tonight!

Jesus says, "Come... Follow Me." Don't be left behind!  
Come for an evening... or better yet, for all four sessions!

7:00 pm—8:15 pm each evening



- Sunday:** God's Plan of Salvation and Our Response  
**Monday:** Who is Jesus for Us?  
**Tuesday:** Sin, Reconciliation and Healing  
**Wednesday:** Our Mission to Share in the Work of Jesus  
and the Church

*Celebration of the Eucharist*

*Childcare available • Reception and hospitality each evening*

All are invited to attend:  
Pre-Lenten Mission  
February 5th through 8th, 2012  
7:00 - 9:00 PM in Church Sanctuary

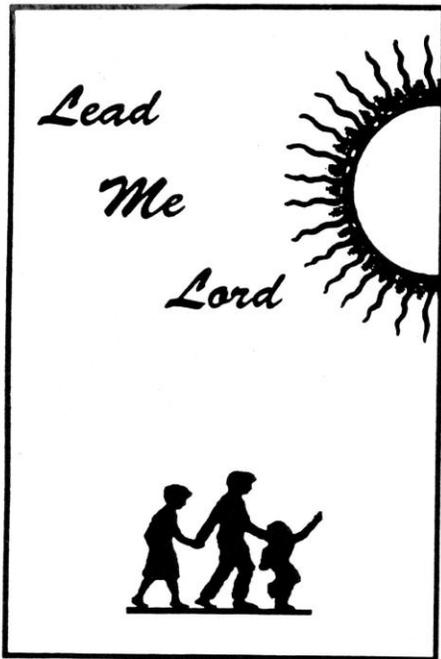
**Theme: Conversion**

*Presented By  
The Redemptorist Priests:  
Fr. Tony Judge, C.Ss.R.  
Fr. Greg Schmitt, C.Ss.R.  
Sessions in English & Spanish*

*4 Nights  
4 Topics  
Invite family & friends*

Join us for refreshments and fellowship  
following each night's presentation

Childcare is available for children  
age 3 years to 3rd grade.



**ALL SOULS MISSION PRAYER**

**LEAD ME LORD**

We praise you, Lord  
for You are so good.

As we gather,  
our prayer is...

That each of us will leave  
with a heart full of love,  
a mind willing to change,  
and a voice to share  
the love of Jesus.

Lead me, Lord...  
...to remember You  
in everything I say and do.

*Amen*

All Souls Mission Committee 1997

*Come...  
follow  
me*

Glory to you,  
O God of our journeys!  
Your love calls us to be Your people.  
By sharing our many and diverse gifts  
we share in Your mission.

We ask you, Lord,  
to shape us into a community of faith.  
Nourish us by Your Word and  
Sacraments, that we may grow  
into the image of Jesus.

Through the power of Your Holy Spirit,  
And the blessings of our Parish Mission,  
heal us that we, in turn,  
may heal the wounded.

Form us to be instruments of love,  
justice, and peace in our land,  
give us courage to take up our cross  
and follow your Son, Jesus;  
and then send us out to proclaim  
Your wonderful works.

Amen



