



ORGANIZING A PARISH RICE BOWL DINNER

1. Set a date during the Lenten season. From past experience, most parishes select a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. A few parishes actually do a simple meal on Ash Wednesday or on a Friday in Lent prior to the Stations of the Cross.
1. Select a timeframe that works well for your parish community. Most parishes begin at 6 P.M. and conclude by 7:30 P.M. Example of a schedule:
 - 6:00- Welcome and Opening Prayer Service
 - 6:20- Guest Speaker or video
 - 6:45- Simple Supper
 - 7:10- Questions, comments for the speaker
 - 7:20- Closing prayer

2. Get volunteers to help with the organization of the evening. The event could be organized with the support of three committees:

1) Hospitality 2) Publicity and 3) Prayer/Education

The Hospitality committee is responsible for the following:

Set a menu. Some parishes opt for soup, bread, rolls and water while others include butter with the bread and tea and coffee.

Purchase and/or arrange for the soup.

Some parishes use a variety of soups and have participants bring a crock pot of soup to be shared. Some have the soup donated by a local restaurant, school, nursing home, etc.

Publicity Committee

Prepare a bulletin announcement for the Church bulletin.

Do a press release to send to the local paper.

Involve grade school children in making publicity posters, and decorations for the evening. Try to make the evening something special for the sacramental candidates – give them a specific role such as greeter, reader, server, etc.

Keep track of the RSVP's.

Prayer and Education Committee is responsible for:

Prepare a prayer service for the evening. Involve participants in the readings and prayers of petition.

Arrange for a guest speaker. Catholic Relief Services' Regional office and local office can help with speakers or educational videos/DVD's. Another possibility is to invite a local food program that benefits from the portion of the ORB dollars that remain in the Archdiocese.

For more info on Parish Rice Bowl ideas, contact Anne Ayella at 215-895-3486 x 717 or by e-mail at aayella@ndsarch.org.