

## **LITURGY HELPS FOR CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHANIST ON WORLD MARRIAGE DAY**

### **OPTIONS TO INCORPORATION WMD INTO SUNDAY LITURGY**

While each parish or congregation may customize the fine points, many have developed a basic event that includes some of the following components:

#### **Preliminary Preparations:**

1. A special service on WMD that has been promoted to all married couples through pulpit announcements and bulletin ads. Advertise to get all couples and families to attend this special event. Promote attendance by recognizing couples celebrating milestones in their marriages.
2. Reception-style party or picnic following the Mass/service, inviting all to attend.
3. Have married couples of the parish bring in a wedding picture the week preceding WMD and display them the weekend of WMD celebration of Marriage.
4. A banner of the World Marriage Day Logo prominently displayed.

#### **Liturgy:**

1. Homily related to the sacrament of marriage.
2. General intercessions related to marriage and families.
3. A special blessing of married couples.
4. A unity candle lit and displayed during the mass.
5. Couple married longest in attendance be the couple presenting the gifts.
6. A special couple's choir to sing songs pertaining to love, marriage and family

#### **Setting/Decorations:**

1. Special floral arrangements for the church that might portray a wedding-like atmosphere.
2. Special decorations or displays in the main entrance or lobby of church.
3. Reserved seating for couples celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years of marriage. A procession of couples as part of the gathering rite.
4. Download the "Prayer for our Marriage", print it on Photo paper or card stock and hand out to married couples.