

MINISTRY OF PRAISE
ST. GERALD PARISH
9310 South 55th Court
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

The purpose of this letter is to introduce your parish to the Ministry of Praise.

This ministry was established at St. Bede the Venerable Parish in Chicago in 1979. Its headquarters is now located at St. Gerald Parish in Oak Lawn.

The goal of this ministry is to unite the elderly, sick, handicapped and homebound parishoners into a body of prayerful people who support their parish as well as the universal Church, and also aid their own spiritual growth by offering their prayers, works, sufferings and sacrifices as a perpetual gift of God.

The pastor commissions members at a special commissioning Mass, and keeps in touch with them through a monthly letter. He may write the letter personally or designate a staff member to share this task. The letter sets forth specific prayer intentions for the month. All in the parish are therefore assured of daily intercessions on their behalf.

The ministry is simple. There are no meetings and no dues. The monthly letter keeps the Ministers of Praise in union with the parish, even though they may no longer be physically active participants in its activities.

The cost of books and certificates need not be a financial burden to the parish. Donors may underwrite the cost for individual members whose names are listed in the parish bulletin. In that case, the donor's name is written on the inside cover of the prayer book.

An explanatory kit including directions, a prayer book, cross and certificate are available for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage. If you would like further information, please fill out the form below.

Thank you,

Ministry of Praise Committee
Phone 708-422-0234
Fax 708-422-0822

Please send _____ Ministry of Praise Kits at \$10.00
each to:

NAME _____
PARISH _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

OBJECTIVE

- * To form the sick, handicapped, homebound, infirm and elderly members of the parish into a ministry of prayer.
- * To enable those involved in this ministry to realize their spiritual worth to the parish and the Church.
- * To obtain intercessory prayers for the parish and the universal Church and an increased devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

ELIGIBILITY

- * Sick
- * Handicapped
- * Infirm and elderly
- * Homebound

REQUIREMENTS

- * Volunteering to offer daily prayers and sacrifice for the parish and the Church as a whole.
- * To be formally mandated as a Minister of Praise.

FORMING THE PARISH MINISTRY OF PRAISE

- * Explain the ministry in parish bulletin notices three or four weeks prior to the sign up date.
- * Provide a sign-up form in the bulletin.
- * Invite those eligible and interested to sign up by a specific date.
- * Assure those interested that there will be no meetings and no dues.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY IN THE PARISH

- * Commission new ministers at a special Commissioning Ceremony at Mass once a year or as appropriate in your parish.
- * When necessary, commission new ministers privately in their homes or nursing facilities.
- * Provide each minister with a certificate of membership, prayer book and cross.

CONTINUING THE MINISTRY

- * Once a month, the pastor or designated staff member writes a letter to each minister setting forth the prayer intentions for that month. Letters may be mailed or distributed after Mass.
- * Birthday cards are signed by the pastor or staff member and sent to those ministers having birthdays during that month.

Information Kits and Membership Kits may be ordered from:

Ministry of Praise
St. Gerald Parish
9310 S. 55th Court
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Phone 708-422-0234 Fax 708-422-0822

Information Kits include a certificate, prayer book, cross and start-up material.
COST \$10.00 plus \$2.00 POSTAGE

Volunteers do all the work of this ministry. Any extra funds or donations are used to promote the Ministry of Praise and to provide certificates and prayer books to poor parishes, nursing homes, Indian reservations or other needy organizations.

Ministry of Praise

“Come, let us praise the Lord with Joy”

Introduction

- ◆ Peace be with you ...
- ◆ We bring you that greeting from the Masses offered at our Church. You are a part of our congregation and we want you to know that you are missed during your illness or incapacity
- ◆ We who work in the Ministry of Praise desire to carry this message to you

Objective

- ◆ To offer a spiritual ministry in which the members offer all prayers, joys, sacrifices and sufferings to God for the salvation of souls and the needs of the parish and the Church
- ◆ To especially include the sick, handicapped, homebound and infirm elderly in this ministry so that they grow in holiness
- ◆ To enable everyone involved in this ministry to realize his or her spiritual worth to the Church
- ◆ To obtain intercessory prayers for the Church and increased devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

Eligibility

- ◆ Handicapped
- ◆ Sick
- ◆ Homebound
- ◆ Elderly and Infirm

Requirements

- ◆ To volunteer to pray and offer sacrifice for the parish and the Church as a whole
- ◆ To be formally mandated as a Minister of Praise

Mandated Ministers of Praise

- ◆ Will receive a certificate signed by the pastor
- ◆ Will receive a book of suggested prayers and a cross
- ◆ Are assured that there will be no dues, meetings, or evaluations

Thank you and God bless you.

The Ministry of Praise

MINISTRY OF PRAISE
COMMISSIONING RITE
DURING MASS

GREETING:

Welcome to the special Mass of Commissioning for the Ministers of Praise. This new ministry is an important spiritual activity which will energize the life of our parish. Membership in the Ministry of Praise is a response to a special call from God to serve Him and the Church through prayer and love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

HOMILY

RITE OF INSTITUTION

- * Blessing of prayer books and certificates, and crosses.
- * Calling of Candidates: After the homily, the priest faces the candidates and asks the, "Friends are you willing to accept the responsibility of serving God's Church in the Ministry of Praise, through your prayers for our parish and for the universal Church?" Candidates respond: "I am."
- * Instruction: The priest will give an instruction to the candidates in these or similar words: As ministers of Praise you will have a continuing and important role in the life of this parish. You are assuming an important office within the Church and are being dedicated to serve the Christian faith in a special way. Our parish and the universal Church will be nourished and enriched by your prayers. It will be joined in this endeavor by your brother and sister ministers in many parts of the world. May your ministry spread throughout the Church until that chorus of praise is strong and steady always and everywhere.

COMMISSIONING:

The priest goes to each candidate and presents the prayer book, certificate and cross saying:

- * (Name) receive this prayer book and cross as a sign of your promise to praise God daily.
- * (Name) I thank you and present you with this certificate in recognition of your membership in the Ministry of Praise.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:

Please include the following:

- * That God our Father will bless these persons whom He has chosen for the Ministry of Praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- * That God will bless our parish through the prayers, works, sacrifices, sufferings and joys of our Ministers of Praise, let us pray to the Lord.

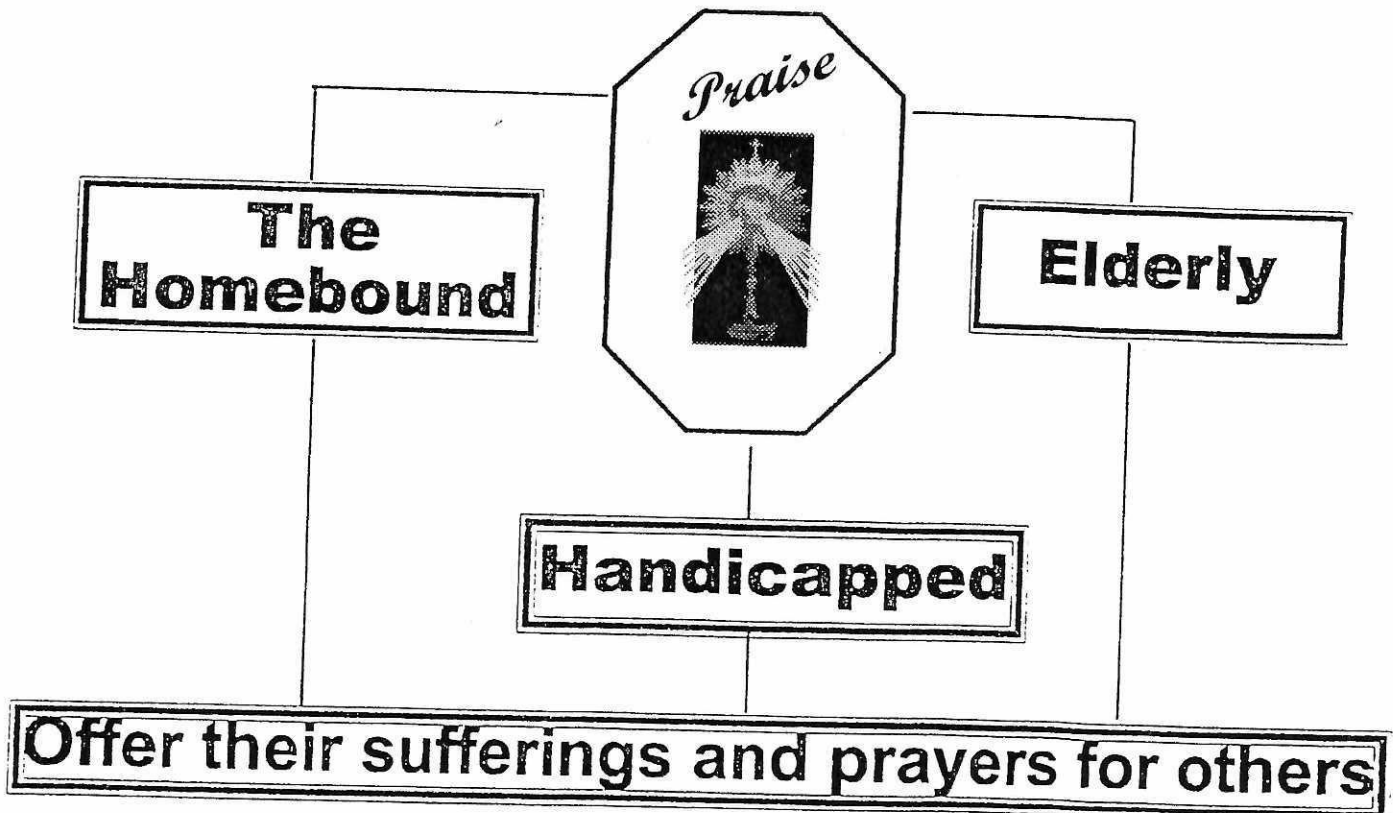
MASS CONTINUES WITH THE LITURGY

(PUT YOUR CHURCH NAME
AND INFORMATION HERE)

Our Parish Is Concerned

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES

Ministry of Praise



WHAT GOOD WILL YOUR PRAYERS DO?

Your prayers will provide a wealth of spiritual treasures that will bring God's blessings on our priests, religious, families, youth, inactive Catholics, and everyone with special needs for strength and direction.

ARE SPECIAL PRAYERS REQUIRED?

No. You may continue your usual spiritual exercises. All who are able are encouraged to assist at Mass and say the Rosary daily. When you are mandated as a Minister of Praise, you will receive a prayer book. You may use the prayers contained in it, if you wish. Each month, the parish will send you a list of special intentions to pray for during that month.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOU CAN'T ENJOY A SOCIAL LIFE?

Not at all. Joy is prayer. It is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. To be a whole person, God wants us to enjoy leisure time and the good things He sends us. A whole person is a holy person.

ARE THERE ANY DUES TO PAY?

No. Your offering of prayers, sacrifices, sufferings and joys is all that is needed. These gifts are very pleasing to God.

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

I wish to join our Parish's Ministry of Praise and offer my prayers, sufferings and joys to God for the Church, and especially for our parish.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

BIRTHDAY (MONTH & DAY) _____

I WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE COMMISSIONING MASS _____

I WILL NEED TO BE COMMISSIONED IN MY HOME _____

Ministry of Praise

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. With this true saying in mind, our parish desires to initiate the Ministry of Praise. Perhaps this service to our parish can best be explained by an event in the life of Father Bernard Haring, a renowned American theologian.

One day Father Haring visited a little church in Bavaria to say Mass. He was struck by a strong sense of being in the presence of God. During his Mass, this feeling overawed him at the Consecration and again as the parishioners mingled while leaving the church. He wondered if the pastor was responsible for this Divine Presence. When Father Haring questioned the pastor, he replied, "Come with me. I will show you." With that, he took Father Haring to the humble home of a woman who had been severely crippled with arthritis for over twenty-five years. In the course of their conversation she remarked, "How good the Lord is to me to let me offer up my sufferings in union with Jesus and Mary on Calvary for the redemption of the world."

As the two priests left her home, the pastor exclaimed, "Now, Father, you know why God is so real in our parish. Her praise and intercession bring God close to all of us."

Here in our parish, we want to help our sick, handicapped, homebound, infirm and elderly join in a chorus of praise to bring God's blessings to our parishioners as well as the universal Church. Those who wish to join this ministry will be formally commissioned at a special Mass as Ministers of Praise. They will be given a certificate, a prayer book and a cross. There will be no dues or meetings.

If you are sick, handicapped, infirm, elderly or homebound, you are eligible to join this spiritual ministry. If you wish to become a Minister of Praise, please fill out the form at the bottom of this page and either place it in the collection basket or send it to the rectory.

Commissioning of new Ministers of Praise will take place at a special Mass for those who are able to attend. Those who are not able to get to church will be commissioned in their homes.

If you know of any homebound parishioners, please take this form to them, and perhaps return it to the rectory for them.

Thank you.

Minister of Praise

I wish to join our parish's Ministry of Praise and offer my prayers, sufferings and joys to God for the universal Church, and in particular for my parish.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Birthday (Month & Day) _____

I will be able to attend the commissioning Mass _____

I will need to be commissioned in my home _____

(Sample of a bulletin notice requesting a donor for the Ministry of Praise)

We are establishing the Ministry of Praise in our parish. This Ministry unites the sick, infirm, elderly, handicapped and homebound members of our parish into a body of prayerful persons who will support our parishioners and the universal Church by offering their prayers, works, sufferings, sacrifices and joys as a personal gift to God. All in the parish are thereby assured of daily intercessions for their spiritual and physical well being.

The following members of our parish wish to become Ministers of Praise:

(Here list new members of the Ministry of Praise)

If you desire to support a member of this Ministry, a one-time donation of \$_____ will insure that the member will receive the prayer book. Your name will be written on the inside cover of the book indicating that it is a gift from you. What a wonderful way to help someone pray for our parish and all its members! Surely, you as a donor will receive many blessings because of your generosity.

If there are several donations for one person, all donors' names will be written in the book. Any extra money will be used to support the cost of the monthly letter to Ministers of Praise.

Thank you.

Yes, I would like to support one or more members of the Ministry of Praise by making a donation for a prayer book to be given as a gift from me.

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

Amount of Donation _____

Special Request: Give the book to _____

NEW MINISTRY IN OUR PARISH MINISTRY OF PRAISE

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." With this true saying in mind, a new ministry will be initiated in our parish - the Ministry of Praise. Perhaps this new service to our parish can best be explained by an event in the life of Father Bernard Haring, a renowned American Theologian.

One day Father Haring went to a little church in Bavaria to offer Mass. He was struck by a strong sense of being in the presence of God. During his Mass, this feeling overawed him at the Consecration and again as the parishioners mingled while leaving the church. He wondered if the pastor was responsible for this Divine Presence. When Father Haring questioned him, the pastor replied, "Come with me. I will show you." With that, he took Father Haring to the humble home of a woman who had been severely crippled with arthritis for over twenty-five years. In the course of the conversation, she remarked, "How good the Lord is to me to let me offer up my sufferings in union with Jesus and Mary on Calvary for the redemption of the world."

As the two priests left her home, the pastor exclaimed, "Now, Father, you know why God is so real in our parish. Her praise and intercession bring God close to all of us."

Here in our parish we wish to help our sick, handicapped, homebound and elderly members join in a chorus of praise and bring God's blessings to all our parishioners, as well as to the universal Church. A priest will formally commission those who wish to join this ministry as Ministers of praise. They will be given a certificate of membership, a cross, and a prayer book to use if they wish. There will be no dues or meetings.

Those who wish to join may fill in the form on this page and give it to one of the ushers or send it to the rectory.

The Ministry of Praise will begin with a commissioning service at a special Mass for those who are able to attend. Those who cannot get to church will be commissioned in their homes.

If you know someone who is homebound, please take this bulletin to him or her.

MINISTER OF PRAISE

I wish to join the Ministry of Praise and offer my prayers, joys and sufferings to God for my parish and the universal Church.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

BIRTHDAY _____
Month Day

I WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MASS _____

I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND AND WILL NEED TO BE COMMISSIONED IN MY HOME _____

MINISTRY OF PRAISE COMMISSIONING RITE DURING MASS

GREETING:

Welcome to the special Mass of Commissioning for the Ministers of Praise. This new ministry is an important spiritual activity which will energize the life of our parish. Membership in the Ministry of Praise is a response to a special call from God to serve Him and the Church through prayer and love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

HOMILY

RITE OF INSTITUTION:

- ♦ Blessing of prayer books and certificates, and crosses.
- ♦ Calling of Candidates: After the homily, the priest faces the candidates and asks them, "Friends, are you willing to accept the responsibility of serving God's Church in the Ministry of Praise, through your prayers for our parish and for the universal Church?" Candidates respond: "I am."
- ♦ Instruction: The priest will give an instruction to the candidates in these or similar words:
As Ministers of Praise you will have a continuing and important role in the life of this parish. You are assuming an important office within the Church and are being dedicated to serve the Christian faith in a special way. Our parish and the universal Church will be nourished and enriched by your prayers. It will be your duty and privilege to keep a chorus of praise rising to God. You will be joined in this endeavor by your brother and sister ministers in many parts of the world. May your ministry spread throughout the Church until that chorus of praise is strong and steady always and everywhere.

COMMISSIONING:

The priest goes to each candidate and presents the prayer book, certificate and cross, saying:

- ♦ (Name) receive this prayer book and cross as a sign of your promise to praise God daily.
- ♦ (Name) I thank you and present you with this certificate in recognition of your membership in the Ministry of Praise

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:

Please include the following:

- ♦ That God our Father will bless these persons whom He has chosen for the Ministry of Praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- ♦ That God will bless our parish through the prayers, works, sacrifices, sufferings and joys of our Ministers of Praise, let us pray to the Lord.

MASS CONTINUES WITH THE LITURGY

Ministry of Praise

What is the Ministry of Praise? It is a spiritual ministry in which the members offer all their prayers, sacrifices, sufferings and joys to God for the salvation of souls and the benefit of the parish.

Who can belong? The sick, the handicapped and the homebound are eligible.

What do they have to do? They are asked to pray for the world, the universal Church and especially the members of our parish. Each month, they will receive a letter from the parish

LET US BLESS HIS HOLY NAME

indicating the intentions to be prayed for during that month.

What good will it do? It will provide a powerhouse of spirituality that will bring God's blessings on our priests, religious, families, youth, inactive Catholics, and everyone in need of spiritual strength and direction.

Are special prayers required? No. Ministers of Praise can continue their usual spiritual practices. All who are able are encouraged to assist at daily Mass and say the Rosary. When Ministers are commissioned, they receive a book containing prayers that they may use if they wish.

Does this mean they can't enjoy their social activities? No. Joy is a prayer. It is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. A whole person makes time for leisure and to enjoy the good things God has given him or her. A whole person is a holy person.

Will there be meetings or dues? No. this is a spiritual ministry. There will be no meetings or dues. Their of prayers, sufferings and joys is all that is needed.

**GOD IS WORTHY OF ALL
PRAISE**

How do they join? They just sign the membership form. They will be formally commissioned at a special Mass. At the Mass, they will be given a prayer book, a cross and a certificate of membership.

**LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS AND
GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

How will this benefit the parish? Parishioners will have constant prayers offered on their behalf for their individual needs and for the needs of the whole parish.

Will this also benefit the universal church? Yes. There are Ministers of Praise in many parts of the world. Together they provide a chorus of praise and supplication to God for all whole Catholic Church.

**I WILL GIVE GLORY TO GOD
THROUGH MY SACRIFICE OF
PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING ALL
THE DAYS OF MY LIFE**

What are the benefits to the Ministers of Praise? As special ministers in the Church, God will bless them and their loved ones, as well as the members of all our parishes, the universal Church and the world.

MEMBERSHIP RETURN FORM (Return to Parish)

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

St. Gerald Parish
9310 S. 55th Court
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
Phone 708-422-0234
Fax 708-422-0822
WEBSITE;www.ministryofpraise.org

Date _____

RETURN THIS INVOICE WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Order Form

NAME _____

PARISH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PHONE _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

FAX _____

Ordered by _____

Prayerbooks _____ \$ 4.00 ea _____

Certificates _____ \$ 1.00 ea _____

Crosses _____ \$ 2.00 ea _____

Information Kit _____ \$10.00 ea _____

Order total _____

Shipping & Handling

\$ 1.00 to \$ 10.00 include \$ 2.00 _____

\$ 10.00 to \$ 50.00 include \$ 5.50 _____

\$ 51.00 to \$100.00 include \$ 10.75 _____

\$101.00 to \$150.00 include \$ 16.25 _____

\$151.00 to \$200.00 include \$ 21.30 _____

Total Due _____

Prayerbooks are now available in English and Spanish

Please allow three weeks for delivery,

Please make checks payable to: MINISTRY OF PRAISE.

THANK YOU!

Ministry of Praise

CHURCH OF

We hereby commission

as a Minister of Praise to offer all
prayers, works, sufferings, and joys to
God in union with the Immaculate Heart
of Mary for the redemption of the world,
especially the members of our parish.

Pastor

