

NPM National Convention Friday, July 13, 9:00 AM
S-08: Assessing the Liturgical Life of Your Parish
Michael Novak

Overview of the Parish Liturgy Assessment Process

Step 1 Formation

- Convene the liturgy committee of the parish or, in the case where there is no committee, a group of invited parishioners to act as an ongoing assessment team. Try to choose a representative cross-section of the parish population.
- The group will be formed in basic liturgical principles, using the assessment tool as a guide. They will also be familiarized with the assessment tool. This formation may take more than one session.
- Decide which parish liturgical events will be assessed. These may be limited to Sunday liturgies or they may include an assortment of parish liturgical celebrations (weddings, evening prayer, children's liturgies, reconciliation services, etc.) over a prescribed period of time.

Step 2 Assessment

The members of the parish assessment group will attend the appointed liturgical services independently of one another. They will all use the same assessment tool, employing it to help them record their observations. It is recommended to write down the observations immediately after the liturgy, rather than during it.

Step 3 Followup

- Convene a followup meeting with the pastoral staff and worship committee/parish assessment team (i.e., presiders, musicians, religious educators, school principal, youth minister, pastoral associate, etc.). The assessments will be presented and discussed. The liturgy committee or parish staff can then develop an action plan based on the outcome of the assessments.
- If the assessments result in numerous suggestions for change/improvement, it might be wise to prioritize the list and agree to tackle only the highest priorities this time around.
- A future assessment process should be scheduled to gauge progress on the current suggestions and to address any other issues. Making assessment a regular part of the community's life encourages accountability and commitment to excellence.