

LEADER OF PRAYER

Sister Barbara Morscher, Renea Roach and Rosemary Hill have recently completed formation to become a Leader of Prayer for St. Mary/St. Frances Cabrini Parish. A Leader of Prayer is a lay person commissioned to lead the faithful in acts of worship which in the past were often led by ordained clergy but which are not reserved exclusively to them.

The formation for this ministry consists of an eight-week series conducted by the diocese. The course addresses the verbal and non-verbal elements of presiding at prayer as well as the structure of the various forms of prayer they may be called upon to lead.

In our parish, Sister Barbara, Renea and Rosemary may be asked to lead Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Liturgy of the Word, Wake Services, the Rite of Committal, devotions such as novenas and Stations of the Cross, minor rites within the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Sunday celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion when in an emergency a priest cannot be present.

It is the hope that through this ministry, parishes will be able to more easily gather for prayer when a priest is not available and that the opportunities for communal prayer may eventually be expanded.

According to diocesan directives, Leaders of Prayer are to be vested in an alb for all services conducted within the church building. The alb is a white garment, a baptismal garment. It is traditionally the garb of the people and not specifically clerical vesture. When the baptized put on the alb to minister in the liturgy, it becomes clear that they are doing so in virtue of their baptism and their share in the priesthood of Christ.

Sister Barbara, Renea and Rosemary are to be commended for the dedication and enthusiasm with which they responded to the call by the parish to take part in this ministry. When you have the opportunity you might thank them for the service they are giving to our parish.