***Parish Resources for Mission 2022 - Moving Forward in Hope***

***Monday, January 17th, 2022 – Theme – Sustained by Love***

1. **Suggestions for Sacred Spaces for your church**

Creating a sacred space in your church is a good way to create awareness about what’s happening in our parish, it will also provide a space where parishioners can go to reflect and pray. This space could be placed in the church porch, sacristy or in another suitable location.

*Helpful steps when creating your sacred space:*

* **Step One:** Start by deciding where in your church you will place the sacred space. Place it where people will see it and not in a hidden corner of the church.
* **Step Two:** Keep the space simple and uncluttered, don’t include too many symbols.
* **Step Three:** Provide lighting that will help bring the space to life.
* **Step Four:** Include colour – use bright cloth and fabric, something vibrant.
* **Step Five:** Take the theme for mission – ‘Moving forward in Hope’ or the themes for each day, to create a focal point for the space.

*Starting Afresh* – Take something that brings our mind to new beginnings, like a clock or a calendar - place it in the space. This could be placed on the space on Sunday, as part of the opening procession.

*Sustained by Love* – take whatever symbols represent love – pictures of family, love hearts, a ring, flowers - place them on the space.

*Sowing Seeds of Hope* – Place a pot of spring bulbs like snowdrops and daffodils or a plant on the space.

*Embracing Life* – a picture of someone running a race or climbing a mountain? Maybe a picture of a family celebration?

1. **Entrance Procession**

The entrance procession opens our celebration and sets the tone. This procession can take place on Sunday to open the mission or, on each of the days. The procession could include the following:

* Thurifer
* Altar Servers
* Someone carrying a symbol of the mission – diocesan logo or mission booklet?
* Cross and candle bearers
* Ministers of the Word
* Ministers of the Eucharist
* Priest.

As part of the procession, someone could carry one of the symbols relevant to the theme of the mission and place it on the sacred space. Also, the various symbols relating to the daily theme can be brought forward on the respective day.

1. **Suggested Opening Words**

The theme for day two of our mission is ‘Sustained by Love.’ Jesus calls us to draw from the well of God’s love, he calls us to love one another, love is always central to his message. We need love in our lives, in order to cope with life’s challenges. Today as we journey together for our mission, let us reflect on this love, who do we love in our lives, how can we show love, how can we express Jesus’ continuing message of love?

1. **Musical Suggestions**

Reflecting on the theme ‘Sustained by love’ choose hymns that focus on love. All of the following can be found in the diocesan hymnal Canaimís.

* Oh the Love of my Lord is the essence
* O God, you Search me and you know me
* Give me love in my heart, keep me singing
* God’s Spirit is in my heart
* Love is his word
* One in Body, Heart and Mind
* Servant Song
* Ubi Caritas

1. **Prayers of Intercession**
2. Dear Lord, may you always bless us with your love, bless our families, our friends and give us your gift of love so that we may share with others. Lord hear us.
3. We ask God to open our hearts and minds to the struggles of others. May we always mirror your love in all we say and do. Lord hear us.
4. We pray for all who are lonely and feel unwanted. May your love reach the innermost depths of their hearts. Lord hear us.
5. We pray for peace throughout the world. May your loving embrace reach out to all living in war torn countries. Lord hear us.
6. Let us remember all our loved ones who have departed this life. (Pause) Lord hear us.
7. Let us pray for all our needs at this time. (Pause) Lord hear us.
8. **Reflection**

The word of God is to the human heart

what a seed is to the earth.

However, just as a seed needs soil,

so the word needs a receptive heart.

The earth responds to the rain and sun so that

even the desert blooms.

But the arid human heart has the power to resist

so that it remains barren.

Lord, soften our hearts with your grace,

open them with your gentle love,

so that the precious seed of your word

may take root in our hearts

and bear fruits in our lives. *Flor McCarthy, New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies*