

Summary

Call to Minister, Past

15. Describe a time when you felt you were making the fullest and best use of your gifts and talents while sharing in ministry and service to others? What were you doing? What was most energizing for you?

A number of the responses mentioned that being a participant at Mass as a Liturgical Minister was very fulfilling. Parishioners enjoyed being a part of the choir, being an altar server and serving as a Liturgical Minister . . . *“reading scripture at Mass and seeing the faces of the congregation,” “being a Eucharistic Minister in Mass and giving the host to my mother when she could not attend Mass.”*

Others responded that participating in outreach programs like L.E.A.F., the St. Vincent de Paul Society, taking communion to the home bound and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. *“I helped organize a distribution for needy families”* and *“working with people from other churches to work together in a “fun” spirit.”* Others mentioned religious education as energizing as in the role of CCD teacher. . *“I taught religion classes - I LOVED IT!”* along with Liturgy of the Word for Children and RCIA, *“RCIA rite of dismissal with N. – it was a blessing. It was a sacrifice to get up, but worth it.”*

Many responded they were energized when they were in the service of the parish by working at the dinners, *“working the kitchen with Sister Jean.” “I feel energized when I am working on church environment.”*

Others were energized outside of the parish community. They felt fulfilled when they were working in the community and with their own family. They felt they were leading by example for their families, friends and neighbors. . . *“Coaching little league”* and *“I talk to my family members in hopes they will find more about our Lord and do his will.” “I work with young people that act and talk with carnal ideas. I try to show them there is a better way to live by showing Christ’s love through my life as an example to them.”*

Call to Minister, Future

16. What is one thing our parish might do to get more people involved in serving others in the parish and wider community?

Many responded that inviting parishioners to join/serve others through some kind of written or informational process would allow people to observe the organizations that are available and allow them to discern what services they might like to join in order to serve their parish or community. . . *“a one on one approach to get people involved is required,” “clear direction for the needs and the involvement needs to be provided”* and *“approach an individual when you see that they have a gift to share with the parish.” “Personally ask people to be involved and keep using the clipboards to encourage involvement.”*

Many parishioners expressed a need for more social activity for youth and adults as well as for outreach programs *“expanding the soup kitchen, involving the youth in community services like the drives for the needy and the elderly.”* Others felt a need to remember the homebound by bringing them communion and *“trying to involve homebound in helping the church.”*

The need for a parish survey and a suggestion box were mentioned . . . *“take a census of the parish and find out who would like to volunteer and for what ministry.”*

Responses mentioned they would like more personal contact with greeters as they come in for church services and *“having a parish leader go to homes and talk with people”* and *“have a parish leader visit the sick in the hospital.”*