



## Connecting People with their Calling

- By our Baptism, all Christians are called to serve
- In the ideal world, therefore:
  - All Parishioners are engaged in service
  - Everyone is “on the lookout” for new opportunities to serve, all the time
- Ministries “spread the word” through:
  - Parish Bulletin
  - Digital Display Monitors
  - Parish Website
- And people respond in overwhelming numbers

Ideal World

## Bringing Parishioners into Ministry

In the real world, we suggest that you have to be INTENTIONAL about it...

- Make it a priority
- Make it personal. Recognize that connecting people with ministry takes every one of us.
- “It’s everyone’s responsibility”
- Personal invitation is most effective
  - Share your personal witness
  - Share how ministry feeds your faith

Real World

## Growing Ministry Membership

- Best approach will vary, ministry to ministry
  - Suggestions offered, for use where appropriate
- The idea is for everyone involved in ministry to be an ambassador for ministry
  - For ALL of the ministries at St. John’s
  - Many parishioners not aware of all ministries
- Imagine what it would be like to have twice as many people involved in ministry...
  - Imagine the good work we could do
  - Imagine the spiritual growth of the Parish
- Can your ministry have TOO MANY people?

## Making It A Priority

- To accomplish anything with a team of people, everyone has to be on the same page about:
  1. What it is you want to achieve? (the priority)
  2. How will you go about it? (the approach)
  3. Who's doing what? (roles, responsibilities)
- Make it a priority to invite people into ministry
  - For ministry leaders, especially
  - For all involved in ministry
- Develop a plan – an approach
- Agree on who's doing what

## Attracting Ministry Members

- Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit
- Develop a plan that works for your ministry
- Create a brief “elevator speech”
- Commit resources—time and energy specifically
- Make commitment and accountability visible
- Review progress
- Share success stories
- Appreciate efforts and celebrate successes

Extend the Invitation

## Connecting Parishioners with Ministry

- Consider your personal friends & acquaintances
- Newcomers to Parish & SEAS
- Pew-buddies
- Parishioners involved in faith formation
  - Communion Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Adorers, Greeters, Hospitality Ministry, etc.
  - Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Young Adults, etc.
  - RCIA, Cursillo, Discipleship, etc.
- Priority is to bring new people into ministry



## It Starts With A Personal Relationship

Genuine desire to help the person grow their faith through involvement in ministry

- Interest in the person
- Understand their...
  - Interests
  - Passion
  - Aptitudes
  - Availability
- Help them find their fit with the ministry that's best for them



## Arrange a Get-Together

- Pray about it
- Choose the approach, location
- Two-way dialog
  - Meet them where they are
  - Don't lead with your ministry agenda
  - Inquire about their concerns and address them
- Be prepared with your "elevator speech"
  - How the ministry serves the Church and the community – the ministry "purpose"
  - How your involvement feeds your faith and helps you grow closer to God in your life



## During the Conversation

- Help them find out about all the ministry opportunities at the Parish
- Connect their interests with a ministry
- Help them as they find their calling
- Extend an invitation from your ministry, if appropriate
  - Explain your ministry's purpose and vision
  - Explain how it benefits the Church, community
- Share your personal witness
  - How participation nurtures yours and the faith of other volunteers



## Help Them Find Their Fit

- Advocate for all the ministries
- If your ministry is not their interest or strongest passion:
  - Be prepared to refer candidates to other Parish ministries or groups
  - Make a hand-hold and solid hand-off
  - Act promptly and intentionally
- The priority is to connect the interests of the person with the needs of the Parish, to help them along their spiritual path



## Other Ways to Connect Parishioners with Ministry Needs

- Advertise needs and highlight ministries spreading the word through existing Parish venues
  - Bulletin, new "Want Ads" section
  - Digital Display Boards
  - Web site
  - Handouts at the Welcome Center
  - Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfasts
- Set up in the Commons after Mass
- Organize a Sip & See event



## Key Points of Invite New Members



## Any Questions or Comments?

