

8-25-18 Fire A Parish Volunteer?

Introduction

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- Archdiocese of St. Louis Stewardship website – <http://archstl.org/stewardship>

Obstacles to Parish Ministry Participation

- 1) Poor attitude of current parish ministry leader
- 2) Parishioners do not what know what their spiritual gifts are to help build the Church

Parish Ministry Leadership Suggestions

- Rotate poor attitude or long-tenured leaders out of the current ministry into a new ministry
- Take this opportunity to develop ministry leaders by providing other ministry experiences
- If not agreeable to rotation, OK to “retire” them and thank them for their service
- Don’t assume you know what people are thinking

Committee Selection Recommendations

- Select “seasoned” parishioners – known to others, approachable, will express their opinion
- Committee members represent all demographics of parish: male/female, different ages, ethnic communities, grade school/parish school of religion
- Pick “influential” people in each demographic
- Select people with different points of view – debate is a good thing
- Succession planning: replace departing demographic member with similar demographic member
- Establish term limits for leaders/members
- Publish agenda and meeting minutes

Gift Discernment

- We are all “evangelizers” of our Faith whether we realize it or not
- When we complain about our participation in parish ministry we are actually “de-evangelizing” – we are moving people away from God instead of towards Him
- Help people align that thoughts and actions with God’s plan for them – Supernatural Joy!
- People are attracted to Joyful people.
- When we help people discern that right ministry that God is calling them to do, their joy attracts others – this is the best way to evangelize!
- Tools:
 - 1) Spiritual Gifts Inventory
 - 2) Gallup “Living Your Strengths”

Other Suggestions

- Conduct annual parish ministry leader meeting – ministries “complement” each other instead of “compete” against each other
- Ministry Meeting Format:
 - 1) The goal of any ministry is to bring people to God!
 - 2) Make faith formation a priority – members need to be spiritually fed, not just worried about the “business” of the ministry
 - 3) Personally invite people to attend Mass on Sunday
- Review current ministries: discontinue some or add new ones
- Hold individual ministry meetings during the summer months – we are a 12-month Church, not a 9-month Church

Closing

- If we are examples of prayer – others will pray
- If we are examples of joyful ministry – we will attract others
- If we are examples of generous giving – others will be generous to support our parish & greater Church mission