

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

The three key elements to successful volunteer recruitment are communication, invitation and recognition.

Parish members need to know what the ministry opportunities are available and how they can become involved. The methods of communication need to be presented in a variety of forms throughout the year. A brochure on available ministries, articles in the parish bulletin, a parish newsletter, homilies on the stewardship of service, lay witness talks, a ministry fair showcasing parish programs and services all help communicate with parishioners.

The most effective form of recruitment is always a personal invitation. Parishioners invited personally are more likely to say yes to your invitation to be a part of a particular ministry. If you choose this method, it is important to be sure the particular ministry addresses the individual's particular interests and concerns.

Some people will respond to a general call to service ministry, especially if they are given an opportunity to be well-informed about the ministry through a ministry fair table where they are given a chance to ask questions and personally invited at a sign-up

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

Every person who volunteers for a new service ministry needs to be welcomed and given some instruction in their new role. It is important that they know what is expected of them, who to contact for assistance or questions, and to be given periodic feedback on how they are doing.

INVOLVING NEW PARISHIONERS

The Stewardship of Service effort in a parish is an ongoing process with new parishioners joining throughout the year. When people register in a parish, it is important that they are welcomed with genuine warmth and hospitality. A personal invitation to participate in parish life will increase the likelihood that new parishioners will become involved adding to the life of the parish. Explain to new members that this is a Stewardship Parish and that all parishioners are invited to share in one or more ministries of the parish. Give them an opportunity to discuss areas that might be of interest to them and provide contact information. In addition, someone on the Pastoral Council or the Stewardship Committee should be assigned the responsibility for contacting these individuals as part of a welcome to the parish community. This initial contact can be an excellent time to give them information on the Stewardship of Service and present commitment cards to them.