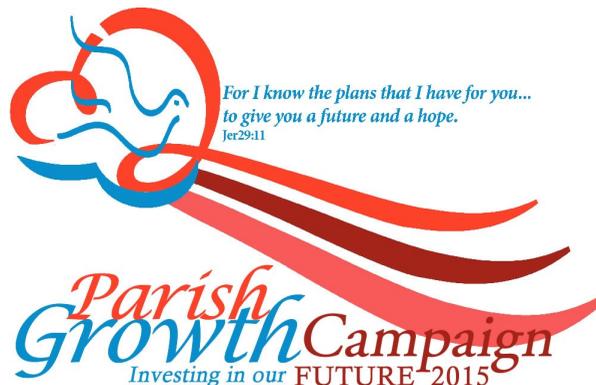




Church of St. Lawrence the Martyr

Ministry Discernment

**A SIMPLE PROCESS to help you
FIND YOUR PLACE
in PARISH MINISTRY**



Parish ministries are more than meetings to attend or tasks to perform. When you serve in a parish ministry, you put your personal qualities and abilities at the service of others.

The more a ministry connects with your own special qualities and abilities, the more your service makes the parish important and valuable to others. You'll also help others realize their value for the parish. What's more, you'll discover how beneficial the parish can be to help you live faith in every part of your life.

To help find your place in parish ministry...

- Go through the three questions on this sheet quietly by yourself. Take your time and relax. Don't think "the greatest needs" or "my favorite stuff to do." Pray thankfully about your God-given strengths and abilities. Explore yourself, your personal qualities, what you're good at, where you believe you can make something good happen and get something good out of it.
- Next, get together with your family or group. Ask them to consider your responses to the three questions. Do they have insights that might change any of your responses?
- Let each of them do the same with you and with each other.
- Make it a time to affirm and encourage each other. Include time to pray together. End with a promise to support and help one another in whatever ministry each of you finally chooses.
- Once you settle on possible areas of ministry, become familiar with the various ministries that happen within those areas (Ministry Guide). Consider schedules, time commitments, age groups, and so forth as you explore different options.
- Settle on a ministry where you want to serve. If possible, talk about it with your family or group. When you reach a decision, use the Ministry Commitment Form to enroll to serve.

Step 1

What am I good at? (choose one or more)

- EMPATHY:** Feeling what it's like to be in the other person's situation
- VISIONING:** Imagining new and exciting ways to accomplish something
- ORGANIZING:** Figuring out, organizing and managing the details of a project
- LISTENING:** Listening and letting others know what I'm hearing
- SUPPORTING:** Working "behind the scenes"
- COMMUNICATING:** Speaking easily with others individually or in a group setting in a clear, informative, engaging manner
- FAITH-SHARING:** Having a strong belief in God and the Church's mission and the willingness to share it with others
- WELCOMING/HOSPITALITY:** Welcoming others and helping them know they make a difference
- FACILITATING:** Helping others share thoughts, discuss issues and resolve conflicts

(Add your own) _____

Step 2

Where do I have strong convictions, feel real energy? (choose one or more)

- ADVOCACY:** Where people cannot help themselves or speak for themselves about basic needs
- COMPASSION:** Where people are troubled because of tragedy, disappointment, sickness, etc.
- CELEBRATION:** Where people can celebrate faith with openness, strength and enthusiasm
- EVANGELIZATION:** Where people want to know, understand and live faith better
- STEWARDSHIP:** Where our resources of time, talent and treasure are cared for wisely in keeping with the Church's mission
- JUSTICE:** Where people apply faith to examine and approach social issues
- ASSISTANCE:** Where the Church's mission is enabled and carried out as service and care

(Add your own) _____

Step 3

With these abilities, qualities, convictions... what area(s) of ministry is/are a good fit for me?

___ Worship/Liturgy

___ Parish Outreach/Social Justice

___ Faith Formation

___ Pastoral Care

___ Community Life

___ Parish Leadership

___ Parish Communications and Administration

Remember, take the time to learn about the different ministries within your area(s) of interest. The parish will be offering you various opportunities to learn about the ministries.

After you explore different ministries, choose one where your gifts are a good fit so that you and others can more deeply experience the parish as a valuable asset for your life of faith.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit
for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NRSV - Catholic Edition)