



Stewardship and Hospitality

Hospitality is one of the signs of a stewardship parish. While the ministry of hospitality is the responsibility of every member of the parish, it is important that the pastor, staff, and parish leaders encourage an atmosphere of hospitality. They ought to be models of hospitality in all aspects of their ministry.

The ministry of hospitality does require some degree of planning and organization. Depending on the size of your parish, the ministry of hospitality may require a separate dedicated committee, or it may be accomplished by a sub-committee of the Pastoral Council or Stewardship Committee.

Welcoming the New Parishioner

Depending on the size of your parish, consider some or all of the following activities to welcome visitors and new parishioners to your parish.

- Pastor sends a welcome letter and/or makes a personal phone call.
- Recognize visitors at Mass.
- Assign a “sponsoring family” to call and/or visit a new family.
- Provide a “newcomers basket” with such items as parish note cards, recipe book, calendar, directory, and home baked goods.
- Have monthly/quarterly newcomers reception or dinner.
- Provide a “newcomers packet” of information on the parish as well as community resources.
- Have a welcome desk before and after Mass.
- Display a “Book of Welcome” in a prominent place for visitors and newcomers to sign.
- Provide a list of parishioner-owned businesses or services.
- Make it a point to extend a personal invitation to parish activities for the first 6 months.
- Invite newcomers to stand and all prayer a “Prayer of Welcome” at Mass.
- Recognize new members in the bulletin, at Mass, or on with pictures on the bulletin board.

On-going Hospitality

Depending on the size of your parish, consider some or all of the following activities as a means of on-going hospitality for all parishioners.

- Use trained Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters) with name tags at all Masses.
- Encourage social time with refreshments after Mass.
- Have special ministers with a regular connection to the homebound.
- Remember parishioner’s special days (birthday, anniversary, awards, honors, etc.).
- Have a team of hospitality ministers make a “How are you doing?” phone call every 6 months.
- Remember special occasions in bulletin or newsletter.
- Publish photos of parish events on bulletin board and/or parish website.
- Establish a program of bereavement ministry to the family.
- Provide trained ministers for outreach to the sick and those in nursing homes.
- Have receptions to celebrate special events such as First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, etc.
- Provide outreach to people with disabilities at Mass and special events
- Provide nursery and child care at all adult activities.
- Show appreciation through special events, phone calls and mailings.