

## Finding a Good Fit

*Use the pages below to help yourself or someone you know discern a way to serve in Christ's name*

### *Recall Your Experience*

If you have never participated in ministry before, or have only done so occasionally and are ready to deepen your involvement, it may be helpful to think about the ways you have experienced or have been inspired by the ministry of others. How can you learn or grow as a servant from others?

### *Who Needs You?*

- The poor, sick, lonely, young or old, those who need compassion, listening or attention, the homebound, the disabled, those who need education or companionship, the grieving.

### *How Might You Serve?*

Many parishes have numerous ministries that rely on parishioner service to reach out to those within the parish and those in need in the surrounding area and in the world; local community organizations may need your service additional ways:

- ***Prayer and Liturgical Ministries***: prayer circle, ministers of hospitality, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, ministers of music, art and environment, altar servers, sacristans, etc.
- ***Education or Faith Formation***: children's religious education, youth ministry, adult faith formation, sacramental preparation, pre-school or child care, vacation Bible school, etc.
- ***Social Ministry and Outreach***: soup kitchen or food pantry, housing renovation or building, women's or children's shelters, unemployment counseling, neighborhood watch, clothing, toy or toiletry collections, Thanksgiving or Christmas food or gifts drives, domestic work camp or twinning community, social justice advocacy or awareness, etc.
- ***Pastoral Care***: bereavement ministry, parish nursing, visits to the homebound, short-term crisis care, meals or rides for elderly or ill, support groups, etc.
- ***Community Life***: parish socials, dinners, and gatherings, parish office or administration support, grounds keeping, gardening, light maintenance, etc.

### *Where Do You Feel Called? What Ministries Need Your Help Now? What Talents or Strengths Can You Offer?*

- Talk to someone at your parish or in your town who knows the current ministry needs.
- Think about the areas that call to your heart, or seem to need you.
- Reflect on your talents, skills and knowledge (use the sheets below if you find them helpful).

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### *Focus on your talents and strengths*

- Look to your talents, skills & knowledge, what your passion is, and what you love to do.
- What kinds of activities are you naturally drawn to?
- What kinds of activities do you seem to pick up quickly?
- In what activities did the “steps” just come to you automatically? In what activities do you “lose track of time?”
- During what activities have you had moments when you asked yourself “how did I do that?”
- What activities give you a kick, either while doing them, or immediately after finishing them and you say “oh, when can I do that again?”
- Dare to dream, if time and money were no object, what would you do?

### *Invite a gifts coordinator, strengths coach, or good friend to affirm your talents*

- Get a glimpse of how others see your talents & strengths in ways you may not see for yourself

### *Understand the value of your active participation in ministry*

- Each of us has gifts to offer; each has talents upon which to draw
- Being a Christian calls us to serve as a reflection of our Lord, in response to God's love for us in Christ

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*Reflecting On Your Strengths*

	Experience	Talent	Skills	Knowledge
<b>Definition</b>	<i>Think about a time in which you have used or experienced this theme</i>	<i>Naturally reoccurring patterns of thought, feeling or behavior that can be productively applied</i>	<i>Your ability to perform the steps of an activity</i>	<i>Acquired through education, training or experience and can be reapplied to specific tasks</i>
<b>“Plain English Definition”</b>	<i>“The person with the theme knows the theme best”</i>	<i>“Who you are”</i>	<i>“How to..”</i>	<i>“What you know”</i>
<b>Signature Theme #1</b>				
<b>Signature Theme #2</b>				
<b>Signature Theme #3</b>				
<b>Signature Theme #4</b>				
<b>Signature Theme #5</b>				