

# Calling All Ministers of Hospitality

It's difficult to move to a new place, or begin something new. When we do, we usually seek out a friendly face, one that has an approachable smile, one that seems to want to put us at ease. It is always reassuring to find that person who can show us around, and make us feel comfortable. This person can introduce us to other people, so that we don't feel so alone.

That is what is so important about Greeters in Church. Not only do they represent our community, but they are there to meet fellow parishioners and visitors, and make everyone that passes through the doors feel welcome and comfortable. It also helps us to meet some people that we may have only said "hello" to, and never actually called them by name.

Coming to Mass is a celebration of the Eucharist, and shouldn't be celebrated alone. We are a Christian community, and need to come together for this Blessed event. Historically, Catholics didn't "greet" at the door of the Church. But times have changed, and it is becoming more common. This "Ministry of Hospitality" is something that isn't a directive from the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. It is just the right thing to do at St. Pats!

In November 2004, the Greeter Ministry was started and continues to grow! No preparation is required. The only requirement is to arrive 20-30 minutes prior to the start of Mass, with a smile, and a firm handshake, to help meet and greet fellow parishioners and visitors as they arrive. We will all find enjoyment meeting the people that have come to celebrate with us. It will make the Mass even more meaningful. It is amazing what a heart felt "Good morning" or "Good afternoon" can do for us as we enter into the House of God and prepare to worship together.

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