

Robust Stewardship

Prayer. Ministry. Finances.

It is more blessed to give
than to receive. -Acts 20:35



Make ministry a part of your life.

As Catholics, we are all familiar with the account of multiple miracles performed by Jesus. In The Gospel of John, these are organized as seven “signs”:

- changing water to wine
- healing the official’s son
- healing the paralyzed man
- feeding the 5000
- walking on water
- healing the blind man
- raising Lazarus from the dead

Ask the Holy Spirit to
show you where and how He
would have you minister today.

Rather than focus on the divine nature of these signs, what if we instead consider the **type** of things that Jesus is doing, and his motivations for doing them? Although Jesus’ miracles differ in many ways, we can quickly observe a simple fact that connects them all; Jesus is **helping people in need**. Once we realize this, we can see Jesus’ miracles not as spectacular acts to be marveled at, but as examples of loving ministry meant for us to follow in our daily lives.

Ministry

Ministry is simply understood as living out Jesus' message through acts of kindness and charity, helping those around us who are in need.

How might you use the gifts God has given you?



Ministry is not about us. In fact, when we witness someone in need, we frequently react in the same way as the first two men in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Unwilling to inconvenience ourselves, we pass by under the assumption that someone will take care of this person or task. The hard truth is, if everyone lives under that assumption, that "someone" will never come. It has to be you. True ministry is actually embodied in the act of sacrificing ourselves, our schedules, our conveniences, to be of service where our help is needed most. The enemy of ministry is complacency. As soon as we pass the buck down the line, the task at hand may never get done.

A parish is made up of many people from all different backgrounds, and not all have the same strengths and skills.

Who in the parish could be lifted up by your help?

Where could you serve within the parish or school?



The minister with a charitable heart does not say, "I want to help with this," or "I want to do that." The minister who is truly about expressing the love of God asks, "Where is my help needed most?" and does it. Often this task is uncomfortable and even difficult. Mary asked Jesus to help the couple at the wedding at Cana. He saw the need and changed water into wine. The disciples came to Jesus saying 5,000 people needed food. He saw their hunger and meagre offerings and turned them into an abundance of bread and fish for all.

Christ now asks for your help. How will you respond?