



Serving God by Serving God's People

A Handbook of Ministry Opportunities

Serving the Parishes of

St. John Vianney
300 Captain Thomas Blvd.
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 934-6000

Our Lady of Victory
600 Jones Hill Road
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 934-6357

A Note from the Pastor

Dearest Friends,

God gives us so much. We are all blessed with the amazing gift of life. Many of us can be thankful for the gift of good health. Most people here have the love and support of family and friends. We are all blessed to live in a beautiful place by the shore where we are able to behold the grandeur of God's creation every day. We have the freedom to worship without fear of persecution. We possess skills and abilities that make us unique. God has been generous in blessing us. What do we offer in return?

Stewardship is a way of life for all Christian people. It is not a job or a fund raiser, but an attitude of love and care. As stewards, we have been entrusted with all Creation. We are asked to use our time, talents and treasures to continue to build up what the Lord had provided. How well are we doing just that? Do we seek to make the world a better place in all that we do?

Good stewards know what the master is about. Jesus Christ came to save us. He taught us how to live and how to pray. He healed us of our infirmities and relieved us of our sins. He loved us so much that he died for our sake. He rose from the dead to offer us eternal life. He has sent the Holy Spirit among us to unite us and give us courage and strength spread his message of love. Do we appreciate all that Christ has done for us? Do we use the gifts of the Holy Spirit that have been bestowed upon us through the sacraments of our Church?

Good and faithful stewards begin all that they do by saying thank you to God! We thank God by living lives as cheerful givers from the many blessings we have. We offer God the gift of time: to visit the sick, to speak words of love, to welcome the strangers among us, to comfort the sorrowful. We offer God the gift of talents: to praise God in music, to teach the young people about the faith, to make our places of worship beautiful, to keep our brothers and sisters well in body, mind and spirit. We offer God the gift of treasure: to improve the lives of the poor, to provide service to all our brothers and sisters, to maintain the church facilities where we gather in love, to provide for the instruments of our sacramental life. We give back to God for all we have. We say thank you with lives of love and generosity of spirit.

We, the parishioners of Our Lady of Victory and St. John Vianney Parishes, are called to be good and faithful stewards. We have been given so much. What do we give back? Let us commit ourselves to creating the most supportive, welcoming and joyous community we can. Let us strive to be people who use our time, talents and treasure well in love of our God and neighbor. Let us all look for ways we can more actively live the message of Christ with the abilities we have. It is the least we can do. Let us say thank you to God by living lives of love and praise.

Gratefully and joyfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Joe

(Rev. Joseph Cronin, Pastor, 2007)

*Stewardship...
is not a job
or a fund raiser,
but an attitude
of love and care.*

*Thank you to The J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. for printing this booklet
at no cost to our parishes. Their generosity is appreciated.*

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How to Use this Handbook

This booklet can be used as a tool for discernment, helping you to decide in which way to best serve God through service in our parish communities. It shows the diverse and interesting ministry opportunities provided by our parishes, grouped by the type of service they provide: liturgical, community services, educational, financial, and emotional. If you'd like additional information on any of the ministries, please complete the form on the back cover and return it to either rectory office or drop it in the collection basket at Mass.

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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers

The primary role of the Altar Server is to assist the priest in the celebration of the liturgy, done through specific actions that facilitate the worship service.

Altar Servers need to be Catholics in good standing and in 3rd grade or higher. They must have received First Holy Communion. Their participation may count toward community service hours required for religious education and public schools. They must be and look alert during Mass, sitting and standing at the appropriate times.

Adult Altar Servers assist at funerals and daily Mass.

Time Commitment: *Altar Servers attend meetings called by Father, and attend Mass as assigned on Sundays, Holy Days or special services.*

Baptismal Garment Ministry

Members of this ministry create the simple white baptismal garment or bib used for infant baptisms. The bibs are given to the families for the child to keep as a remembrance of the purification of the sacrament of Baptism.

Those called to this ministry enjoy sewing a simple garment in their own home and at their own pace. It provides an opportunity to share in the liturgy of Baptism and welcome new members into the parish.

Time Commitment: *Varies as one can set their own pace in the sewing of the bibs that are needed throughout the year. The larger the team, the fewer the bibs that will need to be sewn by each individual.*



Greeters/Ushers

This group greets people at Mass and makes them feel welcome, oversees the bringing of the gifts to the altar and takes up the collections at Mass. They enjoy their service.

Members should be friendly and outgoing.

Time Commitment: *Members of this Ministry do not have regularly scheduled meetings. They arrive early and stay later after the Mass they are serving.*

Hospitality Ministry

The group makes sure there is a pot of coffee, beverages, and a snack ready for parishioners who are stopping to say hello to friends or who are looking for companionship following Mass and at various church functions

Members should have a willingness to share a smile with others, to offer hospitality, and to be friendly to all parishioners.

Time Commitment: *Members of this ministry at SJV need to commit to a minimum of three hours a month. At OLOV, members generally meet when needed for about 15-20 minutes and a half hour followings Masses.*

Lector

Lectors proclaim the Word at weekend Masses, Holiday Masses and when called upon. They proclaim "the Word effectively" so that Jesus, the Word of God, is once again among us. They recognize

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that the Ministry of the Word serves God and the people in a most important way.

Members believe that to be a Lector is not a job but a beautiful, meaningful ministry and a privilege. The Lectors believe that the ministry of the Word is a ministry of the people for the people and that this ministry is a prayer for them, that they are proclaiming not just any word, but the Word of God.

Members should have the ability to articulate and speak clearly in front of people. They should be responsible and dedicated to the ministry, taking the time to read the Word before Mass, come on time, be respectful, have a pleasant personality and a willingness to develop the skills needed to communicate God's message well.

Time Commitment: *Lectors meet as needed. There is a rotating schedule which results in their serving at 1 or 2 Masses per month at OLOV; at SJV, more often depending on the number of lectors.*

Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Committee provides meaningful liturgical celebrations during the year by choosing the music and readings. Committee members decorate the altar and church for holidays and special Masses. They also plan the children's liturgy.

Planning prayer services is a very rewarding experience. Seeing the church beautifully decorated for Christmas and Easter brings a real sense of pride and love of our church.

Members should be enthusiastic in sharing ideas, be team players and commit to providing liturgical celebrations that provide an opportunity to spend time with God in prayer and reflection.

Time Commitment: *The group meets 7 to 8 times a year for about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. In addition, the group meets to decorate the Churches several times per year during holidays and special Parish events.*

Maintenance of Sacramental & Altar Linens

Members of this ministry maintain the altar linens on a weekly basis, sharing in the preparation of the Lord's banquet. Maintenance includes the laundering and ironing of all linens used on the altar for Mass and liturgical celebrations.

Time Commitment: *One month per year.*

Ministers of Holy Communion

Members have the honor of assisting the priest in the distribution of the precious Body and Blood of Christ at Mass, carry the Eucharist to hospitals or homebound members of the parishes and nourish people with the witness of their lives as they feed them with the Body of Christ.

They offer themselves and their time and talent for the ministry of Christ's Church and in gratitude and thanksgiving for all that God has given them.

Members need to be a Catholic in good standing and of 18 years or older, and have a strength and holiness to bring Christ to others.

Time Commitment: *Members do not attend scheduled meetings but are assigned Masses on Sundays and Holy Days or as needed to deliver the Eucharist.*

Music

The Music Ministry provides quality music by parishioners for parishioners. We encourage full congregation participation in order to enrich each parishioner's spirituality.

The benefits of this ministry are spiritual, social and recreational. Participation in this ministry helps the adult and younger singers and musicians feel alive as they help the members of our parish learn about scripture through song.

Ideally, members of this ministry are team players who should be able to match musical pitches as well as learn and retain melodies and harmonies in a short period of time.

Time Commitment: *Members of this ministry participate about four hours weekly. This includes weekly Sunday Mass and special events (total: 80 hours a year).*

Office Volunteer

The office volunteers assist the parish office staff with mailings, filing, bulletin inserts and counting of the parish collections.

Those involved in this ministry will be able to work well in a group and maintain the confidentiality of parish information. Attention to detail is helpful.

Time Commitment: *The group meets weekly for approximately 1-2 hours to count the parish collections, and as needed for mailings and bulletin inserts.*

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Beacon on the Hill

The Beacon on the Hill is our community outreach center and works with existing city organizations to help the less fortunate find justice, service, and education through ministry and outreach. Food, clothing and diapers are available from our team who do the work of Christ in our community.

The volunteers in this ministry work together as a family to distribute food donated by parishioners; prepare and distribute clothing to those in need; and with the help of donations and parish drives, keep shelves stocked with much needed diapers for families who need them.

Volunteers should be kind, patient and nonjudgmental with a realistic attitude toward helping others. The Word of God provides them with the energy and willingness to meet the Beacon's goals of service, advocacy, education and empowerment of the poor.

Time Commitment: *Varies for volunteers depending on their interests and skills.*

Food Drive Committee

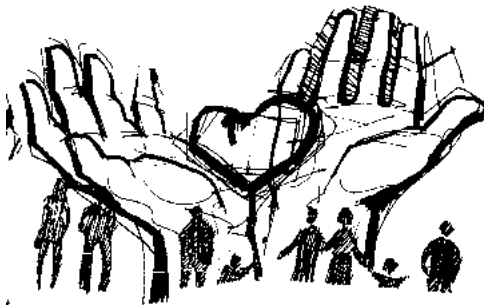
The Food Drive Committee is part of the Beacon on the Hill and Social Ministry Committee. Their purpose and goal is to collect and distribute food and other necessities to approved agencies who will distribute these items to the less fortunate.

The Food Drive Committee needs members who are able and willing to staple food lists to bags, sort and carry filled bags, and/or transport bags from SJV to OLOV Church.

The Food Drive Committee has the desire to help the less fortunate. It is rewarding to see the results of this work, with the church hall filled with bags of donated food and staples, and to receive feedback and appreciation from the agencies on behalf of those who have been helped.

Time Commitment: *The group holds two stapling meetings of about one hour's length per year.*

There are two food drives which require about an hour or two each per year.



Friendly Visitors

This ministry provides regular companionship and stimulation, as well as spiritual support to shut-in parishioners. This service helps the homebound to maintain their parish connection.

Reaching out to the homebound brings joy and inspiration to the visitor as well. Many shut-ins exhibit gratitude for the visit. This is a great opportunity to practice the works of mercy.

Members should have the ability to listen, be compassionate and cheerful, and be aware of parish news in order to share it with the homebound person.

Time Commitment: *Members of this Ministry attend two to three one hour meetings a year and if assigned to a homebound spend ½ hour twice a month visiting them.*

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an Advent/Christmas project of the Parish Social Ministry Committee.

Specific needs are gathered from various sources and placed on handmade ornaments that are hung on the annual Giving Trees set up in both parishes. Parishioners are asked to take an ornament, purchase the item and return it to Church by a specific date. Unwrapped items are delivered or picked up by the various agencies and organizations for delivery before Christmas.

Those involved have a desire to share the joys and blessings of Christmas with our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Time Commitment: *Help is needed throughout Advent to make the ornaments, set up the trees, gather and sort the gifts and be available for the delivery and pickup by the agencies. "Many hands make light the work," a time commitment of one hour or several throughout the Advent Season is appreciated.*

Parish Social Ministry Committee

This committee ministers to the needy in our community by organizing and promoting food, cloth-

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ing, toys, and diaper drives for the Beacon on the Hill. Its members also educate other church ministries on how they, too, can minister to those in need. Its goal is to build a parish community that has social justice as one of its top priorities.

Committee members should have a heart for helping and promoting social justice. A helping hands attitude is a must as is the ability to communicate the committee's mission to others through presentations and other communications.

Time Commitment: *The committee meets monthly for 1 ½ hours and organizes several events per year. Members can participate in the committee meetings or for special events only.*

Pro Life Ministry

The Pro Life Ministry is an answer to God's call to affirm the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. This is done through prayer and action.

This ministry provides a liaison to the Archdiocesan pro-life office which is responsible for the dissemination of educational information as well as the legislative agenda which pertains to right-to-life issues.

Time Commitment: *Varies as needed.*

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring is our parish participation in a national event which takes place each year on Super Bowl Sunday. The children in our religious education program provide the ingredients for

homemade soup which is sold to raise funds for the services offered by the Beacon on the Hill. Each small contribution comes together to fill a huge need in our community.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to promote the event, as well as prepare packaging for the soup, cook it, and sell it on Super Bowl Sunday after all Masses.

Time Commitment: *Two or three planning meetings take place prior to the event; help in the kitchen is needed on Saturday; cashiers are needed on Saturday night and Sunday morning; set-up and clean-up volunteers would be appreciated on the day of the event.*

Wellness Team

Members of the Parish Wellness Teams work in conjunction with the Hospital of St. Raphael Parish Nurse Program to provide healthcare screenings and education to parishioners. They ensure that both churches are prepared for medical emergencies by providing the appropriate equipment and training. They are available to parishioners to answer health questions and to provide referrals to the appropriate people or agencies.

Members of this ministry need to be certified/licensed nurses or health care workers in order to perform screenings. Clerical personnel can assist with filing and record keeping. Important qualities of those involved in this ministry are caring and being a team player.

Time Commitment: *One hour per month after Mass to take blood pressures. The committee meets monthly for approximately 1 ½ hours from Sept. through June.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Adult Bible Study

The historical, cultural and theological messages of various books of the Bible are explored in two groups which meet weekly at both parishes. Attendees enrich their faith through education in God's Word.

Adults over 18 years of age are welcome to attend class on Tuesday afternoons (SJV) and/or Sunday evenings (OLOV).

Time Commitment: *Classes last one hour. Check the bulletin for details each week.*

Baptismal Preparation

The parish communities of Our Lady of Victory and St. John Vianney celebrate the gift of a new life in the sacrament of Baptism. Knowing that the family is the first church the child experiences, those presenting children for Baptism are required to be properly prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the Church.

The Baptismal Preparation session gives parents an increased understanding of the richness of the sacrament and their responsibility to their children and

themselves within the Church community.

Parents meet with the Deacon on the first Sunday of the month following the 9:30am Mass at St. John Vianney Church.

Book and Film Group

The group makes available books and films that highlight important Christian values and themes, such as the writings of important Catholic thinkers or the stories of the lives of the Saints and other holy people. It allows for and encourages active discussion of spiritual ideas and experiences. The group provides the opportunity for the parish community to gather socially.

Members should be able to facilitate a small group discussion, set up hospitality, welcome participants, and enjoy reading and viewing spiritual books and films.

Time Commitment: *The group has one or two events a year that last two to three hours.*

Engaged Couples Conference

The Engaged Couples Conference prepares engaged couples for marriage during a one day seminar. Members will enjoy helping engaged couples prepare for marriage.

The ministry offers married couples an opportunity to strengthen their own marriage through the presentations shared with the varied groups of engaged couples.

Members of this ministry are married couples with a sense of humor and patience who are comfortable presenting in front of the groups of engaged couples.

Time Commitment: *Four conferences are held per year from 1:00pm to 6:00 pm on designated Sundays.*

Lenten Soup Suppers & Speaker Program

In the spirit of Lent, members of this ministry provide a simple soup supper that is shared in community in the hall at Our Lady of Victory. Speakers offer an opportunity for adult faith formation and spiritual growth as they develop a Lenten theme. Donations received are given to the Beacon on the Hill programs.



Members find that their response to this call to serve gives them a sense of satisfaction by helping to enable others to observe Lent with the community.

This ministry is an avenue for sharing your favorite soup recipes. It offers an opportunity to socialize in an intergenerational setting.

Time Commitment: *Lenten Soup Suppers are held during the five Thursdays of Lent. Each event lasts approximately two*

hours. Time commitment varies depending on the task involved. Volunteers are needed to help with set up and clean up of the hall, serving or helping in the kitchen, or making a pot of soup to share.

Our Lady of Victory School

Our parish Catholic school offers children in the community an education based on spirituality, morality and knowledge of God. Its students are active stewards in God's world and provide service to the parish and the West Haven community. Adults have the opportunity to help raise funds for the school through a variety of fun events.

Friendly and upbeat people who have fund-raising and organization skills are invited to assist with development activities.

Time Commitment: *Time commitment varies.*

Our Lord of Peace Prayer Group

Our Lord of Peace Prayer Group is part of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and meets once a week on Fridays in the chapel inside the church at St. John Vianney starting at 7:30pm. Come to deepen your relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Members should be open to receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Time Commitment: *One 2-hour meeting a week (attendance is optional each week).*

Parish Retreat Committees

Adult retreats of varying lengths are offered to men and women of our parishes, at various times throughout the year (watch the parish bulletin for details).

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Some are an hour in length, while others run for several days.

Creative, reflective and friendly people are welcome to volunteer for these retreats as they are scheduled and promoted.

Time Commitment: *Time commitment varies.*

Religious Education, grades K-10th

Catechists (teachers), classroom assistants and substitute teachers share their faith experiences and provided curriculum with public-school students in Sunday morning or weekday afternoon and evening classes. Our program serves more than 650 children in our parishes and needs more than 65 volunteers to work effectively.

The catechist loves to share our faith and God's Word with children and teens. Creative, energetic, and dedicated adults receive training, teacher's manuals, and other support tools in order to make the classroom experience interesting and fun for students.

Time Commitment: *Catechists commit 1 ½ hours weekly to preparing for and attending class, September through April. Classroom assistants help the teachers or DRE during class time only.*

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

This ministry provides awareness and evangelization within the parish community in that the parish is the primary minister of the RCIA process. Members of this ministry help to provide faith formation and discernment of God's gifts for those whose journey of faith leads them to discipleship within the Catholic Church. The team welcomes new members and incorporates the fully initiated into the parish communities. Roles needed: catechists, sponsors, hospitality persons and prayer planner.

Those called to this ministry should be in touch with their own faith story and have a willingness to share it with others, while respecting God's presence and graces within another's life as they respond to God's call. Participation in this ministry provides an opportunity to strengthen and update one's own faith. Sponsors experience a sense of renewal and satisfaction in bringing a candidate to the fullness of faith. All involved grow in humility and gratitude as they come to a deeper realization of God's goodness, generosity and mercy.

Time Commitment: *Weekly sessions of 1 ½ hours are held from September to Pentecost. In addition, three Rites are held during Sunday Mass.*

Rosary Group

The Rosary Groups meet weekdays in OLOV Church to pray the Rosary in answer to the calls of Our Blessed Mother to pray for country, church, vocations and the needs of our parish family. Members also pray the Rosary with the residents of Seacrest Nursing Home every Tuesday morning. They share with the residents of Seacrest a sense of belonging to our parish community.

All are welcome to come and pray the Rosary.

Time Commitment: *The Rosary is prayed Monday through Friday at OLOV at 5:10pm; and Wednesdays at 7:00pm at St. John Vianney Church; and with the residents of Seacrest Nursing Home every Tuesday from 10:30-11:15am.*

Stewardship Committee

As Christian stewards, we are called to share our time, talent and treasure with others as a response to the gift God has given to us. The Stewardship Committee is responsible for communicating the stewardship way of life to the parishes through liturgies, bulletin announcements, information and parish events. The committee looks for ways to encourage and engage people to share their time, talent and treasure with our parish communities. The committee oversees the annual stewardship renewal process and the biannual parish ministry fair. Participation in this ministry helps us to live out our call to share our faith with others to meet great people, have great times and receive so much more than we give.

Members of this ministry are people of faith committed to the stewardship way of life, who are enthusiastic and creative in promoting and encouraging fellow parishioners to share their time, talent and treasure.

Time Commitment: *The committee meets eight times per year. Meetings are held for one hour. Other opportunities include the Annual Archdiocesan Evening of Stewardship and special events planned by the committee to promote stewardship.*

Vacation Bible School

Summer time is fun time as a team of volunteers shares its faith and Bible stories with children K-5th grades. Crafts, music, storytelling, drama, and active games teach the daily lessons in this one-week adventure for kids.

Volunteers may be adults or middle/high school students who want to have fun while teaching God's Word. Special leadership positions focus on art, music, physical activity, and providing snacks. The Bible School runs for one week during the summer.

Time Commitment: *Volunteers need to attend two 1-hour training sessions prior to the start of VBS then 4 hours daily during the week.*

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry provides junior high and high school students with a fun filled, service oriented, continuing faith experience in a safe environment.

If you like food, fun, sports and friendship, this is the group for you! Join us for day trips like the annual Advent trip to La Sallette Shrine in Massachusetts. In addition, we sponsor fund raising events such as the annual Pig Roast and Pie Baking Contest that are enjoyed by the entire parish community. The group also hosts the annual Halloween Party for the younger children and serves the needs of the elderly of the parishes.

Time Commitment: *Varies. Events are open to all parish youth in junior high and high school. Adults can also help as chaperones and assistants.*

BEREAVEMENT

Bereavement Support

The Bereavement Support Ministries assist in the healing process by comforting those who mourn and providing an outreach in the name of the parish community.

Members of this committee offer a parish presence to those in our communities who are suffering the loss of a loved one.

Ten-Week Bereavement Support Groups are offered 2-3 times per year to enable individuals to work through the steps of grieving. In addition, ongoing support follows with monthly sessions in "Moving Forward" to address growth through the difficult changes that result from the death of a loved one.

The Bereavement Team plans the annual November 2 Memorial Mass especially for all families who have experienced a loss in the past year.

Members of this ministry are compassionate people with good listening skills who have experienced the death of a loved one. This ministry responds to those suffering loss and is based on the premise that "grief shared is grief diminished." Members of this ministry find their belief in the Resurrection is strengthened through participation in this ministry.

Time Commitment: *The Support Groups meet for 1*



½ hours over a period of ten weeks. The parish offers 2-3 support groups per year. Facilitators for each group attend all meetings, a total time commitment of 15 hours per group. Group Facilitators are trained by the Archdiocesan Family Life Office and help to implement the "New Day" process.

Lazarus Committee

This group reaches out to those who have lost a loved one through death. They help families through the process of planning the Funeral Mass and serve as greeters and representatives of the parish community at the Funeral Mass.

It is often rewarding to the interviewer to help the families who have lost someone. The Lazarus Committee members can reflect Christian hope to the grieving family as they help select the appropriate readings and music.

Members should possess an understanding of the Rite of Christian Funerals, be compassionate and caring and perform as the representative of the church.

Time Commitment: *Members meet once a year for one hour and depending on the number of Funeral Masses attend about one Funeral Mass a month.*

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WAYS & MEANS

BINGO Committee

The purpose and goal of the BINGO Committee is to earn much needed money for the church, to provide a Christian environment for fun and relaxation and to build spirit and community.

Members should have good hearing and a loud voice, patience and math skills.

Time Commitment: *The group has no meetings outside of Bingo nights once a week. They handle and discuss everything as it happens. Weekly Bingo sessions last about 3 hours and are held at both parishes.*

Creative Crafts

Members of this ministry meet regularly to knit, sew and create crafts that are sold at the parish craft fairs and bazaar. The group raises money to help the parish through the sale of these crafts. The crafting takes place in a creative, friendly and social atmosphere that provides members an opportunity to meet new people and learn new crafts.

Anyone who likes to sew, knit, crochet or enjoys crafts is welcome.

Time Commitment: *The group meets 24 times per year for 2 hours. In addition, the group hosts a craft fair in the fall and spring at Our Lady of Victory Parish. Members are welcome to help with these events.*

Finance Committee

The group ensures that parish expenses are controlled, makes recommendations on improving the financial status of the church and oversees financial reports and budgets.

The members are united in ensuring that their church is financially sound. They work together using their knowledge of the church and surrounding area to maintain a thriving church that can financially support itself.

Members should have a financial background, the ability to make recommendations and the knowledge of church history and the surrounding area to make growth financial recommendations.



Time Commitment: *Members of this Ministry meet quarterly at a meeting of 1 to 1 ½ hours, but the time commitment varies as required. Separate committees exist for St. John Vianney and Our Lady of Victory.*

Knights of Columbus

Holy Father John Paul the Second Council #14326

As part of a local and international Catholic benevolent organization, the

Knights exist to “render aid to its members, their families and beneficiaries and render mutual assistance to the sick, disabled and needy. Promote social and intellectual interchanges among its members, promote and conduct educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief and to assist the parish and the Catholic Church with its mission.”

This fraternal order benefits individuals as well as the church and people in general. It serves to make its members better and more involved Catholics, Christians and citizens. Our pillars of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism contribute to the spiritual, emotional and physical well being of its members and the community.

Members should be a Catholic gentleman in good standing of 18 years or older and interested in contributing to the success of the organization, its members and the church.

Time Commitment: *The group has regular meetings once a month from one to two hours long; the member would also attend group functions and events of the organization depending on their involvement.*

Parish Carnivals

The Parish Carnivals are fun filled, family events held in July.

The events provide parish families an opportunity to enjoy fun games, rides and good food in a community atmosphere. The carnivals are also one of the major fund raising events for the parishes.

The carnivals provide a wide variety of opportunities for volunteers, from working in one of the many booths, selling raffle tickets or helping with set up

and clean up. Volunteers enjoy working with others and the satisfaction of helping to raise money for our parishes.

Time commitment: *One hour to one or more evenings during the weekend. Help is also needed prior to the carnival with set up of the White Elephant Booth.*

Parish Picnic

The Parish Picnic Committee plans and organizes the fun, free event open to all parish families held in the Fall. The Parish Picnic brings the parish communities of St. John Vianney and Our Lady of Victory together to enjoy an afternoon of good food, fun and community.

The committee is responsible for the menu, games, crafts and entertainment provided at the event and recruiting volunteers to help at the picnic.

Members of the committee are people willing to have a good time, while serving others.

Time Commitment: *The committee meets 2-3 times per year. The time commitment is approximately one to eight hours.*

Pastoral Council for SJV and OLOV Parishes

A committee of parishioners representing both parishes help and advise the pastor on issues pertaining to parish life including Mass and confession schedules, the census, joint activities, and future plans. Members solicit opinions and concerns from parishioners and bring them to the pastor and present them during bimonthly meetings.

Members should communicate well with all members of the parish and the pastor. Critical thinking skills and a visionary attitude are appreciated.

Time Commitment: *The Council meets every other month for 2-hour meetings.*

Pentecost Spirit Celebration

This free, family event is offered on or near Pentecost Sunday so that all parishioners can celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to our church. Games, food, and social time make this an event fun for all ages.

Volunteers help with the cooking of food, set-up and clean-up of the event, and other activities of the afternoon.

Outgoing, organized, friendly, and adaptable people are welcome to join the committee that makes this day happen.

Time Commitment: *Three meetings are held prior to Pentecost Sunday, lasting about an hour each. Volunteers are welcome for the day of the event, also.*

Our Lady of Victory Social Group

The group's goal and purpose is to provide opportunities for socialization, to get and keep members active in parish events and to arrange and attend group trips and events.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Time Commitment: *The group has about twenty meetings a year which last about two hours. They also organize two events a year.*



A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the many gifts You have given us.
As Your faithful stewards, guide our hands
as we tend to Your garden,
lift our voices as we proclaim Your words
and encourage us as we work to build Your Kingdom.
We are one family of faith, a community brought together
to share in the Eucharist.
Through Your sacrifices, you continue to inspire us.
As stewards of Your many gifts, help us to use these gifts
through love and service in Your Kingdom.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Yes!

I'd/We'd like more information about the ministries checked off in the column to the right.

Name: _____

Tel: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Best time to make contact:

Day: _____

Time: _____

Name: _____

Tel: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Best time to make contact:

Day: _____

Time: _____

**If you'd like more information
on any ministry,
please complete this form
and return it
to either rectory office
or drop it in
the collection basket
at Mass.**

Liturgical Ministries

- Altar Servers page 3
- Baptismal Garment Ministry 3
- Greeters/Ushers 3
- Hospitality Ministry 3
- Lector 3
- Liturgy Committee 4
- Maintenance of Sacramental & Altar Linens .. 4
- Ministers of Holy Communion 4
- Music 4
- Office Volunteer 4

Parish Social Ministry

- Beacon on the Hill page 5
- Food Drive Committee 5
- Friendly Visitors 5
- Giving Tree 5
- Parish Social Ministry
Committee 5
- Pro Life Ministry 6
- Souper Bowl of Caring 6

Religious Education/ Spiritual Formation

- Adult Bible Study page 6
- Wellness Team 6
- Baptismal Preparation 6
- Book and Film Group 7
- Engaged Couples Conference 7
- Lenten Soup Suppers & Speaker Program 7
- Our Lady of Victory School 7
- Our Lord of Peace Prayer Group 7
- Parish Retreat Committees 7
- Religious Education, grades K-10th 8
- RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) 8
- Rosary Group 8
- Stewardship Committee 8
- Vacation Bible School 9
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Bereavement

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Ways & Means

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- Knights of Columbus 10
- Parish Carnivals 10
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- Pastoral Council for both Parishes 11
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