

Why Be a Volunteer at Your Church? (Can't Someone Else Do It?!)

Volunteers Help Make the Gospel Visible in the World

A successful parish is one that RADIATES CHRIST. It is a parish that is built upon her living stones that form the one foundation with her cornerstone - Jesus Christ. St. Patrick Catholic Church is no different. We are very blessed with a number of generous and talented people willing to give of their time, talent, and treasure for their parish. We thank these good stewards of our parish who give of their time to the Church. They do it selflessly, they do it simply because there is a need, and they do it with a humble servant's heart. Thank you to everyone who gives his or her life in service of the Gospel. It takes many volunteers to make the Gospel visible in the world and we pray that all will seek to serve Christ.

Dynamic Catholics are Generous Volunteers

If you'll recall Matthew Kelly's book, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*, it states that the first and second signs of a dynamic Catholic are PRAYER and STUDY. The third sign is GENEROSITY. Dynamic Catholics are generous with their time, talent, and treasure. This is not just good for those they serve. **It changes them.** The world will say that the happiest people are those who selfishly accumulate, but *God* says the happiest people are those who are generous in giving away. In interviews with Catholics, Matthew Kelly found that they described attachments to worldly things as a primary obstacle to spiritual growth – and this was true regardless of how much or how little they had. In fact, generosity in time spent in service was *crucial* to growing in a sense of Christ's presence and reality in their lives. It's a way of life that brings God's love to the world, and in doing so, brings God's love into their lives.

Volunteers Evangelize

The fourth sign of a Dynamic Catholic is evangelization. When you see people who are very generous, doesn't it make you appreciate them? Doesn't it make you want to be more like them? Evangelization is often cited as the hardest thing for people to do, yet ironically, it is also something that Dynamic Catholics often do without even realizing it. When you serve the Church and your brothers and sisters in Christ, you are giving WITNESS. It is this WITNESS that is often more powerful than words. Think of the small child who watches his grandfather as he quietly walks to the church every morning, reverences the Tabernacle, lights a candle in prayer for a loved one, and then proceeds up and down each aisle to straighten the hymnals and sweep the floor. Through his grandfather's witness, that child has received a profound life lesson on what it means to serve Christ.

Wherever you are in the journey, you may be thinking you just don't have time for anything else. However, as we are ALL called to RADIATE CHRIST, keep in mind that He always has time for you.