



A Ministry of Hospitality

The practice of hospitality to strangers by the Christian community is older than the Church itself. It dates back to the time when there were no hotel chains or other safe places to stay when people traveled in the ancient world. A person had to depend on the hospitality of local people for food and shelter. Many societies had strict rules about how travelers were to be treated.

Today in our mobile society, people don't have a problem with where to stay at night, but they do need a hospitable place to worship. Most first time visitors to a church, who come in on their own, come as a response to a crisis or change in their lives. It may be a good change, like a marriage, or a new baby, or a desired move; but it may also be a stressful change such as loss or illness of a loved one, a difficulty at a previous church, loneliness or an unwanted move. It takes courage to attend a new church. It is vital that the greeters, the ushers and most of all the members of Our Lady of Peace help the visitor feel welcome. They need to be welcomed and made to feel a part of a worshiping community so that we are able to maintain our roots in the Gospel and worship as part of God's family. **The greeter ministry is a vital part of our congregation's ministry of hospitality.** We follow the example of the earliest Christians who welcomed strangers into each new church family with love and affection. Examples of this are found throughout the New Testament letters and the book of Acts.

In a sense, the ministry of hospitality is an outgrowth of our theology of the Lord's Supper as a meal that we share with Christians of every time and place. We welcome Catholic Christians to the Lord's Table by Jesus' invitation. We treat visitors with the same all-consuming love that caused our Lord to give his life for us. We welcome visitors just as we have been welcomed by Jesus Christ.

Acknowledgments: Adapted from: The Greeter Handbook prepared by Kevin Anderson and the Board of Evangelism. Major Revision: August 2005 by Irene Beattie, Updated Sept 2006, Updated Nov 2008, Updated Aug 2011

Msgr. Johnson and Deacon Jeffrey are looking for dedicated men, women and youth of the parish who would like to become a part of The Our Lady of Peace Greeter Ministry. You would have the opportunity to volunteer for one Saturday or Sunday a month. You would need to arrive 15 minutes before Mass begins and go to the assigned entrance to warmly greet all who enter church. As you put on your Sunday best to attend Mass, so you would also put on your Sunday best with enthusiasm and love to greet all who attend Mass.

If you would like to serve in this ministry, please complete the section below and drop in the collection basket next week. For additional information contact Ed and Kathy Price at 614-314-1129 or kmprc4@yahoo.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I am interested in greeting at the (check one)

4:00 Mass _____ 8:30 Mass _____ 10:00 Mass _____ 11:30 Mass _____