

Notes from Fr. Ray McHenry on the Greeters Ministry
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
West Des Moines, Iowa
Ministry of Greeter

The purpose of the Ministry of Greeter is to make sure that "All are Welcome" as people enter the church. This helps to set the tone for the liturgy and worship service. To be a Greeter, all that is required is the ability to be friendly to all who enter St. Francis for worship. This is a great opportunity to see familiar faces and meet new friends; more greeters are always welcome. Hospitality and welcoming are essential to our faith lives.

"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7) The ministry of Greeter flows from this Christian spirituality. The Greeters are the first people our parishioners and guests meet before they come into the Worship space. It does make a difference.

There is a lot of anecdotal evidence suggesting that the ability of a first-time visitor to have a meaningful experience of Christ in the liturgy is directly impacted by the warmth of the welcome extended by the local worshipping community. When people say hello, the worship experience is enhanced. A warm welcome is part of evangelization, work necessary in a Church's mission to help people discover or renew faith in Christ. "So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us." (2 Corinthians 5:20)

It is our obligation as representatives of Jesus Christ to greet His people as they gather to worship. We all need to reach out to our visitors and our fellow parishioners and greet them as Jesus would greet them, with love and care

Responsibilities

1. Be at Church 30 minutes before Mass starts.
2. Make sure you have a name tag on.
3. Hold the doors for the people when necessary.
4. With a smile and a welcoming word, greet those arriving at Mass and offer hospitality.
5. Know locations of various rooms/classrooms/restrooms so you can direct people.
6. Know what is on the information racks in the gathering space.
7. When the procession begins you may sit down.

There are no meetings. You will be scheduled according to your mass preferences and notified in advance. Singles, Couples and Families are invited to join to be Greeters.

Thank you for being a Greeter!