

CELEBRATE THE CALL — DEVELOPMENT OF LAY MINISTRY

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“You also go into the vineyard....” (Matthew 20:4)

Lay ministry is a call from God asking us to work in His vineyard. Catholics must not only accept this call but celebrate it. How is lay ministry interpreted and lived out? Where do Catholics find the mandate to minister? For the last five years, a focus group has been researching lay ministry in the Canadian church. The group's report, *Voicing Vision*, provides information on the direction lay ministry is headed. This report has been distributed to all the dioceses across Canada and marked the end of Phase I for this focus group. Phase II began with a conference in May 2005, which I attended on behalf of the League. The important part of Phase II is to create a network across the country of all those interested in lay ministry.

The mandate to minister arises from baptism when Catholics become one body in Christ. It is in God, who is love, that the reason to minister is found. In the image of this love, neighbour becomes responsible for neighbour. Vatican II directs Catholics to generously accept the call to work with Jesus for the salvation of all. Members of the church study Jesus and then trust in His teaching and example, looking to the Holy Spirit as guide.

Catholics are called to minister to their brothers and sisters alongside ordained ministers, not because of a shortage of ordained ministers, but because the Holy Spirit calls them to do so. Ministry is the renewal of the church as initiated by Vatican II and in the writings of Pope John Paul II.

League members can play an important part in the development of lay ministry in Canada because they are already involved in so many good works in parishes. For more information, contact me by e-mail: ateschke@shaw.ca or by telephone: (807) 622-1058. †

Magazine Deadlines

February 28, 2006

August 31, 2006

November 30, 2006

All copy should be sent to national office.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!

WHY NOT TRY?

- *People Alone In Relationship (PAIR)* is a way to protect our eldest members who are living alone. PAIRs are set up between one elder member and one younger member in the council. Every day, the younger member telephones her PAIR partner at a pre-arranged time. If her partner does not answer, then a second call is made shortly thereafter. If there is again no response, the younger member visits, or arranges for a family member to visit, to ensure that her partner is all right.
- *Banana Split Parties*: The idea is to prepare banana split fixings and then host a party where parishioners and people in the community can make their own banana splits with their choice of toppings. This idea has been very successful, especially if the planned party date happens to coincide with the hottest day of the year. A community building event, and a successful fund-raiser too!
- *Take-Out Parties*: To hold a take-out party, a council arranges for a dinner to be prepared in the church hall. Pre-orders are taken, perhaps by including the pre-order form in the church bulletin. The local youth group can be involved by delivering the dinners to the family residences at a time pre-designated on the order form. What a neat way to involve the youth of the community and offer busy families a much appreciated alternative to preparing the evening meal! †

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Parish Councils Celebrating Anniversaries

75 years

St. Alphonsus, Chapeau, Quebec
St. Ann, Abbotsford, British Columbia
St. Elizabeth, Rosalind, Alberta

50 years

Christ the King, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Corpus Christi, North Bay, Ontario
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rothesay, New Brunswick
St. Dominic, Oakville, Ontario
St. Joseph, Sydney, Nova Scotia
St. Joseph the Worker, Russell, Manitoba
St. Peter the Apostle, North Bay, Ontario
St. Pius X, Toronto, Ontario