

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Ministry Spotlight: Servers

Each year about 25 fifth grade students answer the call to become servers. The students undergo training to “serve” Father Karg and visiting priests during Mass.

Servers are needed for all Masses, including those on weekday mornings, Saturdays and Sundays, holy days of obligation, weddings and funerals.

“The training covers every aspect of the job, including the proper names for the items they will be touching and using, where to find them, the parts of the Mass and their role in it,” said Larry Furman, who leads the training. “They will need to know everything, from how to turn on the microphone to where to find extra candles.” The training also includes a tour of the church and sacristy and a review of such vocabulary as “monstrance,” “lectionary,” and “vestments.”

Once trained, the students, who come from the day school, PSR program, Our Lady of the Elms and homeschoolers, often continue in this ministry until eighth grade.

Larry’s partner in this ministry is Becky Brady, who does all the scheduling.

Another important group of people involved with his ministry is the parents of the servers. “Fifth graders aren’t driving yet, so we have to count on parents to get the kids here on time,” Larry said.

In addition to the children, St. Sebastian Parish has a small but dedicated group of high school students and adults who enjoy serving at the early Sunday morning Mass.

“Servers perform an important ministry and we are also mindful that from some of these children our vocations may come,” he said. “It is particularly rewarding for me to see each year so many kids sign up to serve during Holy Week and the Easter Vigil. It is a long and arduous Mass, plus there are rehearsals, but I always see smiles on their faces.”

For more information about this ministry, contact Larry Furman at 330-864-3041.

Stewardship Profile: Larry Furman

Larry Furman joined St. Sebastian Parish in 1978 and has pretty much had the job of training servers since 1979. Although Larry was not a server in his youth, he did get first-hand experience in the role during high school while attending Padua Franciscan High School in Parma.

Larry is also involved with the parish social justice and stewardship committees and serves as the parish’s ecumenical representative. That means he helps plan events bringing together several West Akron churches, as well as Beth El Congregation, such as the annual Thanksgiving Day service and the recent interfaith picnic.

“I love attending these meetings, listening and getting to know these pastors and members of the clergy,” Larry said. “You have to think that if there were a lot more of these types of interfaith meetings, the world would be a lot less divided.”

Larry and his wife, Mary Beth, have four daughters.

Thoughts on Stewardship

Jesus told him, “Go your way; your faith has saved you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Mark 10:52

These ministry profiles are being brought to you by the St. Sebastian Stewardship Committee. Would you like to share the story of your ministry? Contact David Tschantz at 330-864-0646 or dtschant@neo.rr.com, or Holly Pupino at 330-665-2248 or spupino@neo.rr.com.

