

Ministry testimony - Bonnie Deslippe

A few years ago, when I was asked to take on the ministry of the church environment, I had no idea what was in store for me. I was already a facilitator in Children's Liturgy, a Eucharistic minister and a member of the Historical Committee, but nothing prepared me for the time and effort that goes into the decoration of the church. I had asked Christine Souilliere, who was being forced to give it up the ministry due to family needs, to please help out for the first year, to give me a background as to what had been done before and she graciously agreed (and continues to contribute to this day).

The decoration of the church proper is a challenging ministry, which follows liturgical guidelines that must be adhered to, for example, specific colours are used for feasts and seasons. Consideration must also be given to the pastor's wishes and those of the congregation, previous traditions and what is available seasonally. Because of the time spent putting up decorations, taking them down and maintenance of the various plants, it is a ministry that needs flexible hours and often much of the work is done alone in the church. This has presented me with a wonderful opportunity for reflection and a chance to just "be" with my God. I do have to admit, there are times I'm almost running in and out of the church because of other demands in my life, but I treasure the moments that I can take it slow and offer my service as a prayer. As much as this ministry demands, it has given me greater appreciation for the tradition and symbolism of the Catholic church and presented me with another way to worship.