

The Ministry of Ushers

Bill Carr

When I became an usher 10 years ago it was by accident almost. One Sunday morning there was a shortage of ushers and a friend of mine, who is still an usher, approached me and asked if I would assist them. Needless to say I agreed and have been involved ever since.

The Ministry of the Ushers is one that has been a part of the Eucharistic Celebration for years. I can remember as a child seeing the ushers at the back of the church as we entered and then taking up the collection. We have an usher that has been involved with the ministry at St. John the Baptist for 55 years, and there are several more that are not far behind in the number of years of service.

The role of the usher is multi-faceted. We welcome all who choose to attend our church, we assist the elderly and those who become ill during mass, we assist with the collections, and direct parishioners who are going to receive the Holy Eucharist to the front of the church in an orderly fashion.

Like so many other ministers we offer our time and energy, not for personal gratification, but for the betterment of our parish and our Christian community. And yet it is amazing that after all is said and done, we are the ones who are richer for being a part of these ministries.

The one thing I never counted on when I agreed to be an usher was the opportunity it would give me to meet so many great people. Each week it's like seeing family again, the friendly smiles, the hand shakes and every now and then, the over exuberant laughter. I must admit I get a lot more out of being an usher than I give. With God's grace, I pray I will be able to serve my church for many years to come.