

HOSPITALITY: (Greeters, Ushers, Gift Bearers)

Hospitality was very important in the Ancient Middle East, a land for the most part, that was semi-arid to stark barren desert. Abraham graciously and generously welcomed the three strangers (understood to be God and two angels in human form) and he and Sarah were rewarded with a son despite their old age. St. Paul praised communities that welcomed travelers, especially those “Prophets” in the New Testament, who proclaimed Christ Jesus.

Since the Church is the family of God, the “front line” ministry is the ministry of hospitality. This ministry is exercised first of all by the assembly itself. More specifically, the ministers of hospitality greet the brothers and sisters of the community of faith, and especially newcomers, visitors, and those who need assistance, in a warm and friendly manner as they arrive for Mass or other liturgical celebrations. Throughout the Mass, they attend to the needs of the household of God in a familial and gracious way. In fulfilling this ministry, ministers of hospitality exercise the hospitality of God, who is the host of the Eucharistic Feast.

GREETERS

Greeters are builders of community; they are ambassadors of the parish community by welcoming fellow parishioners and visitors to the Mass and other liturgical celebrations on behalf of the parish community.

- Ideally, a greeter is able to welcome all fellow parishioners by name, and visitors by introducing themselves and asking their names and where they are from.
- Greeters should invite everyone to fellowship after Mass to build community and Christian fellowship.
- In parishes where there is no schedule of gift bearers, it may fall to greeters to invite members of the parish or even visitors to serve as gift bearers.

Extract taken from:

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Nelson Diocese Liturgy Committee