

## **ISSUES AND MESSAGES REGARDING LACK OF FOLLOWUP ON TIME AND TALENT FORMS**

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### **RESPONSE TO THEIR MESSAGES RECEIVED WHEN A PARISHIONER DOES NOT RECEIVE COMPLETION OF A TIME & TALENT FORM**

When parishioners return a Time and Talent form and then are not contacted by the ministry area, it does not mean that no message was sent to them!! On the contrary, a very powerful message has been delivered!

- "I wasn't very confident I had the gifts for that, and apparently they don't think I do either."
- "[ must not measure up to the other volunteer ministers they have."
- "I really am not a very gifted person."
- "I just don't fit in here."
- "You have to really know people well here before you are able to help out."
- "I should have waited until someone else asked me to do something. It was presumptuous for me to sign up on my own."
- "I guess I don't matter."

### **Internal Messages (sometimes externalized to others!) about the Parish:**

- "Wow, are they ever a clique over there."
- "That parish is so disorganized."
- "They must not need lay ministers very badly if they ask for our help, but never call us."

"They sure communicate double messages over there ..... They beg for help but when we offer our assistance, they don't take us up on our offer!"

- "Lay people sure don't matter much to this parish!"
- "The staff and lay leaders in this parish sure want to control everything. They only ask their friends to be involved."
- "[ haven't got time for this charade. I'll go assist somewhere in the community where they are serious about wanting to use my talents and time."
- "[ signed up on a Time and Talent form in a parish several years in a row and never got called. Guess what? I don't go to that parish anymore!"