

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!!!!

Internal Messages About Themselves:

- "I wasn't very confident I had the gifts for that, and apparently they don't think I do either."
- "I 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."
- "I 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."
- "I 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!"

Adapted from *Sharing the Ministry: A Practical Guide for Transforming Volunteers Into Ministers*, Augsburg Fortress, 1995 and from other training materials. Do not reprint without the permission of the author.

St. Mary Magdalen Parish

Sharing our Stewardship of Time, Talent & Treasure



TIME & TALENT

Follow-up Instructions