April, 2019

Dear Friends In Christ:

On the evening before His death our Lord called His disciples to service. That call has been passed down through the centuries to us, today. As Extra-Ordinary ministers, we serve Christ and our parish community in a special and unique way.

To be a greeter, usher, lector, extraordinary minister of communion, altar server, sacristan, cantor, choir member or musician is more than performing a job – it is an answer to a calling from Jesus. Yet, if we do not understand the meaning of what we do, then we are doing nothing more than performing a task. If we grasp the depth of our ministry, our service will never become routine!

To that end we are offering the **Alpha *Ministry*** program to liturgical ministers and anyone interested in the subject from the parishes of Holy Spirit, Prince of Peace, and St. Francis de Sales. In the format of the *Christ Life* and other *Alpha* programs, the Thursday session will begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a presentation, group discussion and ending with prayer. (If you are unable to attend Thursdays, there are make-up sessions on Saturdays.)

Below is the list of spring sessions and targeted ministry topics. (Note: remaining liturgical ministry areas will be covered in the fall.) All are invited to attend each session to gain a fresh perspective on the components that make up our liturgy. Those of you who are liturgical ministers should attend as noted below.

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| **Topic** | **Primary Date**  **6:30 to 9:00 pm** | **Make-up Date**  **9 am to 12 noon** | **Required to attend** | **Invited to attend** |
| An overview and History of lay ministry in liturgical services and the Mass, and the role of Greeters and Ushers | Thurs.5/9/19  Kilduff Hall, SFDS | Sat. 5/4/19  Religious Ed. Bldg., 2nd floor, SFDS | All current greeters, ushers, lectors, and extraordinary ministers of communion | Anyone else – regardless of whether or not you serve in another ministry area! |
| The role of the Lector, Proclaimer of God’s Word | Thurs. 5/16/19  Kilduff Hall, SFDS | Sat. 5/11/19  Religious Ed. Bldg., 2nd floor, SFDS | All current lectors |
| The many roles of the Extraordinary Minister of Communion | Thurs. 5/23/19  Kilduff Hall, SFDS | Sat. 5/11/19  Religious Ed. Bldg., 2nd floor, SFDS | All current extraordinary ministers of communion |
| Commissioning Mass and Reflection | Thurs. 5/30/19  Main Church, SFDS  *(no dinner)* | None | All current greeters, ushers, lectors, and extraordinary ministers of communion |
| **RSVP to SFDS office: 410-676-5119 for Thursday (dinner) or Saturday sessions** | | | | |

Thank you for your time, talent and devotion to our Lord and our parish community. In the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta, “How do you know, love and serve God? … We prove our love for Jesus by what we do, by who we are.”

May God bless you for your service to the families of Holy Spirit, Prince of Peace and St. Francis de Sales.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jack Ward & Fr. Joseph Simmons