



ARTICLE 6

SERVE

JANUARY 2022 • SAINT PATRICK CHURCH, CARLISLE PA • FATHER DON

A few years ago, I went to Universal Studios with my nephew and my sister. It was on my bucket list to do, and I could finally afford it. Just being on the grounds was exciting. The rides, though, were amazing. It was not just the ride but the whole experience was thought out from beginning to end. My favorite ride was Gringotts Bank in the Harry Potter section of the park. Waiting in line, it was as if you were entering and walking through the bank, the ride was looked just like I was on my way to a vault and then when you were done you exited the bank right into a gift shop. The whole experience was phenomenal. It made me realize that people love the phenomenal whether it is a ride at Universal Studios, the first time you experienced Hershey's chocolate world, the merchandise windows at Christmas time at Kaufmann's in Pittsburgh or walking into the lobby of a really fancy hotel. We truly love the phenomenal. Serving in the church is a way to help others to encounter that same sense of phenomenal. Whenever someone comes to something at St. Patrick Church or School, from the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to a Food Truck event in our parking lot, there should be a sense that this was something that was well thought out and planned so as to give them that feeling. We want it to be not just a phenomenal feeling but one where they see the love of God, where they see what it looks like when you have a relationship with Jesus, one where you know who he is and how much he loves us! This takes people to serve in many ways, set up, tear down, ushers, lectors, altar servers, lectors, cleanup crews, catechists, aids, school help, faith formation, adult faith formation, church events like fall family dinner, trunk or treat and anything else I can think up to draw our family and our community together! 1 Peter tells us,

"Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's

varied grace. Whoever preaches let it be with the strength that God supplies, the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"

Helping me and the staff of the church and school to provide a phenomenal encounter, one that leads them to the miracle of the altar and the love of Jesus is what we are all about and at the heart of that is volunteers. Being able to create something that makes people say, "hey, I want to be a part of that, there is something there that makes me want to be a part of that community". When we receive communion, Jesus is giving us the strength to be a part of something phenomenal. May we all pray and find the gifts that God has given us to serve in the church and he will give us the strength to do it! Let us make all we do here be something that is absolutely phenomenal so that people can find Jesus here and together we can learn what it means to follow Him!

Until then, reflect on these things.....

- Is this a family that you are committed to being a part of?
- What gifts has God given you that can help you make our parish more phenomenal?
- If I can't find the time to volunteer in some way (but I hope you do), can I give more financially? Can I tithe (10% of my income monthly)?
- Is my relationship with Jesus something I am ready to share with others? What can I do to make it stronger, so I am ready to serve in some aspect in the parish?

**NEXT ARTICLE:
GO OUT**