

## **ARE YOU AN *ACTIVE* PARISHIONER?**

A parish is not simply a "branch office" of the Church, nor a periodic audience of people, nor an occasional public gathering place; but it is a formally organized social group of believers in the Risen Christ. It is a portion of a Diocese under the authority of a priest legitimately appointed by a bishop to secure, in virtue of his office, for the faithful people dwelling therein, the helps of religion and sacred rites.

The faithful are called parishioners and they become parishioners by acquiring a domicile or a quasi-domicile within the geographical boundaries or territory of the parish.

Parishioners could be active parishioners or non-active parishioners, and the question of parishioner status is important because parishioners look to their parish for many services: parishioner tuition rates in our Catholic schools; the use of our facilities for liturgical services such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals; and certification as eligible sponsors for sacramental celebrations.

These services within the church bring with them certain responsibilities and obligations, as can be found in any form of community life.

To be considered "active," parishioners must be registered in the parish, attend Mass each Sunday faithfully; support the life of parish by sharing time and talents in service, and sharing treasure (i.e., tithe or stewardship) to build up the community. It's also helpful to know or be known personally by the priests who serve the parish community. Active participation in such holistic stewardship makes a person an ACTIVE parishioner.

What's your parishioner status? Are you an **ACTIVE** parishioner?

**This weekend, May 30th & 31st**, Church representatives will be out in front of the Church to help you register. If you are not yet a member, please take this opportunity to register in the Parish. Thank you.

