



Jubilee Year of Hope
January 2025

Parish Ministries

HEROES OF HOPE

Heroes of Hope is a monthly newsletter from the Diocese of Hamilton, shining a light on the extraordinary individuals and ministries who inspire hope and transform lives in our communities.

#HEROESOFHOPE

Christian hope is rooted in Christ! Those engaged in **parish ministries** are heroes of hope for their local communities. They breathe life into their local parishes and foster hope in those who turn to the Church, seeking an encounter with Christ and encouragement and strength for their journey of faith. Parish ministries are many and varied, and are essential to the Church's mission to bring hope to our world. Here we highlight some of these parish ministries.



Catechists and Evangelists

Many of our parishes are blessed with gifted volunteers who share their Catholic faith with youth and adults alike. Our **catechists** prepare parents for the baptism of their children and support the foundational work of our Catholic schools by preparing young children to celebrate their First Communion and Confirmation.

Others participate as guides to adults and children of catechetical age who seek membership in the Church either by celebrating the *Sacraments of Christian Initiation (RCIA)* or by being received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. By announcing the good news of our salvation in Christ and the hope of eternal life, these parish volunteers lead people to understand our faith and learn to live the faith we share by participating in the Church's mission: **to bring to our world the gift of hope, which does not disappoint.**



Parish Outreach Ministries

In many parishes, volunteers provide hope to those in need, creating safe spaces for healing from separation, divorce, grief, and for parents looking for support as they face the challenges of their vocations.

In recent years, many parishes have expanded their efforts to include children and young adults, fostering environments where they can encounter Jesus Christ. **Youth ministers** guide young people in developing a lasting relationship with Christ and the Church, equipping them to face life's challenges with confidence, perseverance, and hope.

Additionally, dedicated parishioners from groups such as the **Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, and St. Vincent de Paul Society** contribute countless hours to their communities. They raise awareness and funds to meet basic human needs, offering welcome and hope to those struggling with life's hardships. Through their active charity, they significantly impact the lives of those they serve.



Liturgical Ministries

When parishioners gather for Sunday Mass and celebrate the Sacraments, many liturgical ministers are engaged to ensure that Christ is encountered in the Word proclaimed, in the praise and thanksgiving offered by all, and in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Ministers of hospitality welcome us each Sunday, assuring us that we are not lone pilgrims on the journey of life, but members of a family who in Baptism have received a share in Christ's Death and his victorious Resurrection, the very reason for our hope.

Parish lectors faithfully proclaim the Word of God, week in and week out, and together with the priest or deacon, providing us with a sure guide to living as disciples of Jesus on our journey to our heavenly home.

Cantors, choirs and instrumentalists help us to respond to God's word and unite us in song as we seek to give praise and thanksgiving to God. Through their ministry they assist us to grow in holiness.



Our dedicated **sacristans** prepare and decorate the church to create a fitting environment for our worship. **Altar servers** assist the priest at the altar, so that he can reverently lead us in our common prayer.



Finally, our **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion** assist us to receive the Eucharist prayerfully and ensure that those who are unable to be present at Mass are united in communion with us.

In many of our parishes, catechists and leaders of **children's liturgy** accompany young children during Mass to hear and celebrate the Word of God. This is such an important ministry to ensure that children are initiated into the liturgical life of the Church.



HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR PARISH MINISTRIES

Lord God,
by the grace of our baptism,
you have given us new life in Christ
and called us to serve as
pilgrims of hope.

We pray in thanksgiving
for those who have responded to your call
to be leaders in our parish community
and for the volunteers
who dedicate their gifts
for the building up of your Church
and the service of
their sisters and brothers.

Through their varied ministries,
may they touch the hearts
of all in our community
who long for the hope
born of our Christian faith,
that never disappoints.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



**Consider becoming a
Minister of Hope in your
Parish Community!**

