

## ***Self-Giving and Participating in Parish Life***

Dear faithful of St. John the Baptist Parish,

Next Sunday, November 15, we will be holding a “Ministry and Apostolate Fair” in the cafeteria. After the Masses, parishioners will have the chance to sign up for different ministries and apostolates which are offered at St. John’s.

The other day, on Catholic radio, I heard Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York talk about parishioner participation using the analogy of the human family. In a family, it is usually expected that the children come to dinner having helped with the setting of the table, having completed their homework, having cleaned their room and having done other tasks. Doing chores around the house is one way that children contribute to family life. Likewise, in a parish, parishioners are invited to “come to the table” and, if possible, contribute in other ways to the welfare of the parish. In addition to coming to Sunday Mass, parishioners contribute to the enrichment of parish life through the sharing of their God-given gifts.

Please take some time to prayerfully consider how God has gifted you with specific talents. Reflect upon the priority which you place on God and His Church in your lives. Take a look at the pamphlet of our various ministries and apostolates (in the pews) and prayerfully decide how you might want to share your gifts with the parish community. And on Sunday, November 15, please consider signing up for one or more of the ministries and apostolates at our parish. May God bless you!

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Blaise R. Berg  
Pastor