



November 2008

Dear Friends,

Each year – and throughout the year – parishioners have the chance to select ways to serve within the parish community.

There are many ways to serve. There is a way for everyone to serve.

It's not about what we do, or how much we do. What counts is *how generously we share ourselves* in whatever we do. What matters is that our service be *a way for us and for others to meet Jesus*.

Christian service is ministry. We don't minister for ourselves or by ourselves. Ministry is a promise we make *to each other* and that we keep *with each other* – and always as *partners with Jesus Christ*.

Ministry is not a function to perform. Ministry is covenant, like God forges with us, which we extend to and carry out for one another. In covenant service, we give and we receive; we grow strong as we offer strength and we become more hopeful and we encourage others.

As ministers, we make ourselves a gift to others. In covenant service, we offer our best, and come to expect the best from one another.

Please use the enclosed ministry descriptions, and covenant forms to share yourself and the treasure of time and service with and for the people of Saint Gabriel Parish and those we serve outside the parish.

God bless you in your service!

Rev. Pasquale J. Apuzzo

Pastor

INSTRUCTIONS

- § Look over the Ministry Descriptions for 2009
- § *Fill out the personal information* on the front of the Covenant 2009 form
- § On the front and back of the Covenant 2009 form, *check off the ministry(ies) of your choice*
- § *Sign and date* the Covenant Promise 2009 on the front of the Covenant 2009 form
- § *Return the completed Covenant 2009 form* – put it into the collection at Mass; put it in the mail slot at the Welcome Table; bring or mail it to the Parish Offices (8901 Winterpock Road • Chesterfield, Virginia 23832)
- § **FOR NOVEMBER 2008** – *Follow the instructions above and make sure to return your completed Covenant 2009 form no later than Sunday, November 16, 2008*