

Prepare for Ministry

There is an expectation, indeed a demand, that the priest and by extension the staff will do everything. There is an expectation that priests should be available 24/7, at any time of the day or night. This level of consumer care is not uncommon among the clergy. It is generous and selfless and we've all been taught to do it. It is also crazy. It is a scenario that leads to expanding demands and inevitable burn out, as we sadly see so often – sometimes even more commonly among religious and lay pastoral ministers than among the clergy.

This calls for a transformation of attitude and action:

There is still a long way to go. Too many of the baptised do not feel part of the ecclesial community and live on its margins, only coming to parishes in certain circumstances to receive religious services. Compared to the number of inhabitants in each parish, the lay people who are ready to work in the various apostolic fields, although they profess to be Catholic, are still few and far between. Benedict XIV

The word ministry derives from the Latin *ministerium* or *servitium*, which is translating the Greek *diakonia*, a word for household service, like serving at table. The bible is clear as can be when it comes to who does this kind of service in the house hold of the Lord:

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Taken from, *Rebuilt*, by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran