

### **Who does Ministry?**

Who does the work of the Church? The church has corrected the practice of past eras of keeping the laity at bay when it comes to involvement in the liturgy.

If people are only being served, they're consumers; if they are working, they are ministers. Our churches will be unhealthy consumer-driven assemblies if people are not pressed to get involved and help out. Just like a family, the only people who don't help are the babies. Christian who don't serve their church family are, at best, baby disciples.

*The ministry is lay because it is service done by laypersons. The sacramental basis is the Sacraments of Initiation, not the Sacrament of Ordination. The ministry is ecclesial because it has a place within the community of the Church, whose communion and mission it serves, and because it is submitted to the discernment, authorisation, and supervision of the hierarchy. Finally, it is ministry because it is a participation in the threefold ministry of Christ, who is priest, prophet, and king. "In this original sense the term ministry expresses only the work by which the Church's members continue the mission and ministry of Christ within her and the whole world."*