



ST. ANN'S PARISH LAUNCHES NEW HOST COMMITTEE

♥ Welcoming Activities ♥ Hospitality Opportunities ♥ Community Building ♥ Newcomers ♥ Fellowship ♥

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:1-2

How would you like to experience a warmer, more loving welcoming as a parish community — on all levels? It is a truly human need to feel welcome. Yes — we are all welcome to come to Mass and the liturgy but our open doors aren't enough. This virtue is also something our community is called to — to be welcoming to others. In our parish surveys we noted that some people found this parish most welcoming while others found it hard to connect. That is a curious difference. We want to become very intentional about welcoming so that everyone can experience this gift.

In his new book, Divine Renovation * Fr James Mallon talks about the parish as a place of welcoming—where people feel they are home. He uses the song from the old show *Cheers* to frame this attitude:

*Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name
And they're always glad you came
You want to be where you can see troubles are all the same
You want to be where everybody knows your name.*

Welcoming and **fellowship** are the focus of the first year of our Parish 5-Year Plan — and that is for very good reason. We can't build a more dynamic parish if we aren't a 'we.' The main focus of this year is to establish a special committee to improve our parish's ability to welcome strangers, visitors, newcomers, and everyone in the parish (families, seniors, home bound & sick, single, divorced, children and teens, young adults...).

Our HOST Committee will be established to bring a spirit of community, fellowship and hospitality. We aim to change the culture of the whole community so that welcoming is the reliable experience in the parish whether people encounter the priests, staff, ministry volunteers, or the parishioners themselves. Being hospitable is a virtue and an act of kindness. Our mission is to bring the love of Christ through one another in all of the parish activities, outreach, and catechesis. We hope to form a bond of fellowship among all parish members. Jesus is the centre of our community and we are called to reach out and bring others to Him.

Areas of Response & Participation for the HOST Committee:

- To gather together the existing welcoming ministries for support (Greeters, Outreach, Welcome, Sunday Coffee)
- Establish a Newcomers Welcoming Committee (think Welcome Wagon) to welcome new parishioners
- Host New Parishioner welcome events quarterly
- Address hospitality aspects of parish receptions, picnics, family dinners & social events
- Address hospitality aspects of special annual events—especially those open to the public (eg: Spring Fair, Christmas Market, etc.)
- Outreach to those who have been away from the Church

*Copies of Fr James Mallon's book, Divine Renovation are available for sale in our bookstore or from Amazon.

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DOES THE CHURCH NEED YOU?

WE NEED A COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR HØST COMMITTEE

As a vibrant Catholic community, hospitality and welcoming are vital to our parish life. Therefore, the parish is actively seeking a coordinator for the new hospitality committee. This is a volunteer position but we are serious about finding the right person to initiate this ministry.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR HØST COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Committee Chair will lead the formation of a parish ministry focused on hospitality. This comprehensive committee will work with all support ministries including some new ministries. The purpose is to create a culture of intentional welcoming which is practiced from the pastor to the parishioner in the pew. The Chair will oversee the committee which includes leaders from subcommittees of the various areas of welcoming; review current practices; make plans for training & formation (staff & volunteers & all ministries). We have help coming from outside sources to do this training.

The Chair will report directly to the pastor and participate in parish leadership meetings.

Experience in customer service, community service, health services, and/or management would be a plus.

Time commitment (est. 4 hrs per week or 16 hours per month) — likely more at the beginning but less as it is established

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications should be submitted to the parish office addressed to Fr Hien or email him at: pastor@stannsabbotsford.ca Please explain your interest in this ministry. Include also your background in hospitality or public service (work related or volunteer) *Additional (optional):* A resume or written list of related experience

DEADLINE: Applications should be in before July 4.

SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES REQUIRED

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| ◇ Have good communication skills (verbal, written) | ◇ A love for others |
| ◇ Be a good team worker; collaborator | ◇ Pleasant personality, friendly and compassionate |
| ◇ Be self-motivated | ◇ Organized and able to organize others |
| ◇ Experience in the parish community of St Ann's | ◇ Good at managing conflict |
| ◇ Faithful, practicing Catholic | ◇ <i>Also:</i> creative thinker, passion for welcoming |

OTHER HØST COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED (PLEASE CONTACT FR HIEN):

- Welcoming Communication (input on our whole communication image)
- Newcomers Welcoming Project
- Members at Large

HØST HELPERS NEEDED:

Helpers of all kinds will be needed in the months ahead for tasks large and small. If you feel called to share of your gift of hospitality, please contact the office to leave your name. Whether you can make a few new family visits a year or help with Sunday greeting regularly, we would appreciate every act of kindness. By giving you will also be blessed!

Many working hands and ministries reflect the generous spirit of service, stewardship and hospitality that St. Ann's is known for. We are working to make St. Ann's a place where both visitors and current parishioners alike, feel a greater sense of belonging and support. Thank you for your efforts. Please pray and work with us as we develop this ministry.