

## *Recruiting Volunteers*

Sometimes in Parish Social Ministry  
we feel very lonely.

Here are some ideas to help!

1. Find out in a genuine way what people are really interested in.
2. Use what people are interested in to get to what you are interested in. Be creative!
3. Offer something new! People like what is new and organized!!
4. Use the pulpit. Be sure to involve your Pastor in your planning.
5. Let the children lead! Children can be great inspirations to adults. Make your activities family friendly.
6. Start with inspiration! Don't forget prayer!
7. Accompany people in meeting the poor in their midst.
8. Don't try to do too much.
9. Be organized!

## *Qualities to look for in PSM Team Members*

The Parish Social Ministry Leadership Team is composed of many people working together.  
Here are some qualities to look for in effective PSM leaders.

Team members are leaders, not doers.

The purpose of a PSM Leadership Team is to assist all the baptized to live out their call to be Christ to the world. Its job is to mobilize the energies of the whole parish. In so doing, team members can multiply their efforts a hundredfold, and—more importantly—allow more people to share in the joy of serving.

Team members know how to listen.

They value other people's ideas and listen to find out what the needs are and what skills and resources the parish has to meet them.

Team members are good planners.

Effective leadership doesn't just happen. It requires organization, goal-setting and planning. (These are skills that can be learned.)

Team members collaborate with other parish organizations and, on occasion, community groups.

Leaders are not "lone wolves." They work with others to achieve a common purpose.

Team members are communicators.

They share what is happening with the entire parish regularly and consistently.

Team members are welcomers.

They know the importance of continually inviting and recruiting people for social ministry. Good social ministry needs people, people, people!

Team members value diversity.

They are always looking for opportunities to invite a wide variety of people to take part in social ministry, particularly those from minority groups. All the people in the parish need to have a voice.

Team members are practical.

They are able to find doable projects that focus parish efforts to achieve results consistent with the parish mission.

Team members are persons of faith.

Leaders are people of prayer. What they do isn't just "busy-ness" but arises from a deep spirituality. They connect their actions with God's plan and purpose for the world. When the going gets hard (and it will!), it is faith that keeps them going.

**(Adapted from Tom Ulrich, Parish Social Ministry: Strategies for Success.)**