

# PPC Discussion Document 5<sup>1</sup>

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## Inviting all parishioners into ministry

### Step 1: Examine the present reality in our parish

- What are the opportunities for ministry in our parish?
- Is formation provided for those involved in the various ministries?
- How do we encourage all members of our faith community to participate in ministry?

### Step 2: Take time to reflect

The evangelising parish expresses itself through all its members, through every member ministry. And it expresses itself through the various parish ministries and ministry groups, each with its own specific focus...

There needs to be a move away from seeing involvement as a job or a task and towards seeing it as a ministry. It will make a big difference if people involved in parish groups develop the spirituality that inspires and drives their ministry. It will also make a big difference if people develop a vision around their ministry. They can be helped to see beyond the specific task they are engaged in. They need to come to a sense of what it is that all the different parish ministries are feeding into. In particular, their work will be transformed if it is inspired by the vision of every-member ministry. They will come to see themselves as parts of the jigsaw, working together as an evangelising parish.

Parish ministries are meant to be both voluntary and professional. The voluntary spirit will always be central. But it has to be accompanied by a commitment to quality. That is what the word 'professional' means here. It is interesting that the word has a religious connotation, such as when we speak of religious profession. In that sense, 'professional' ministry is imbued with commitment. It is inspired by the commitment of baptism. It is committed to our vision of parish. And it is committed to achieving the highest standards in realising that vision.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This discussion document has been developed by The Pastoral Renewal Team of the Kerry Diocese and is shared with the Parish Pastoral Councils of the Elphin Diocese with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Taken from: Donal Harrington, *Tomorrow's Parish*, Columba Press, Dublin, 2015.

### **Step 3: Explore various options**

Having looked at the reality of ministerial experience in our parish and taken time to reflect on Donal Harrington's views on ministry, explore the various possibilities of how our parish could enhance ministry and invite each member to participate.

### **Step 4: Identify specific actions**

- Informed by the discussion and reflection, identify specific actions that we could carry out in order to enable people to understand ministry more and invite all to participate;
- If no action has been agreed, identify what further research is needed.

### **Step 5: When the action is completed take time to review it by exploring:**

- Did the action achieve its purpose?
  - What was not effective?
  - Is there a follow-up action needed?
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