



## 2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Making Christ A Home In Your Heart

100% of your gift supports 14 ministries like **Lay Ecclesial Ministry**

Did you ever wonder what “ecclesial” means or even how to pronounce it? Ecclesial (**ec-cle-si-al**) means pertaining to the Church as the community of believers, with stress on their faith and union through love, and on the invisible operations of divine grace among the faithful. [catholicculture.org](http://catholicculture.org)

### **A story of Faith, Hope & Charity.**

*... in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God... 2 Corinthians 6:4*

Lay Ecclesial Ministry allows men and women in our Diocese to deepen the influence of Christian faith in their lives by allowing them the opportunity to do extraordinary public service in parish life.

Lay ministers are called to use their unique gifts and talents to encourage our faith and help build up the Church. Lay ecclesial ministers are co-workers in the ‘vineyard of the Lord’ with the bishop, priests and deacons.

Preparation for this professional ministry in the Church takes both time and commitment—two to three years of theological education, study, prayer and prayer reflection; coupled with communication, group dynamics skills and leadership training. Participants can earn Diocesan certification in Basic Lay Ecclesial Ministry with two years of study, while an additional year earns an Advanced Lay Ecclesial Ministry certification.

Lay ministers are a vital part of parish communities serving in roles such as pastoral associates, or as directors of religious education, youth, liturgy and music. They can also serve in hospitals and health care settings, on college campuses and in prisons.

“We need well-formed lay people, animated by a sincere and clear faith, whose life has been touched by the personal and merciful love of Christ Jesus,” said Pope Francis.

*Your support today of the **Lay Ecclesial Ministry** program will assist in the formation of lay people who have a missionary spirit. To learn more about becoming a lay minister visit [ajdiocese.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry](http://ajdiocese.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry); call 814-361-2000, or email Mary Beth Heinze at [mheinze@diocesaj.org](mailto:mheinze@diocesaj.org)*

Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Drive can be mailed to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; placed in your parish offertory; or made online at [www.diocesaj.org](http://www.diocesaj.org)  
The Catholic Ministries Drive continues through Dec. 31, 2018 and all donations are tax deductible.

