

## Liturgy Bytes - We Have Work to Do...

Just what you might not want to hear as you are working hard sprucing up your garden for the summer season. The work I am referring to is about Mass, or the liturgy. In fact, the word liturgy in Greek means the work of the people. However, when speaking about the church's worship it is probably better to say that the liturgy is God working in and through the work of the people. Yes, we are not getting away from being linked to the word **work**!



Actually, it is more than just showing up on time to Mass. In order to contribute to the work of celebrating the Sunday Eucharist, we need to be actively present. This work begins way before we stand for the opening song at Mass. We come with our stories, our worries, our concerns for the world as we actively engage in joining with our brothers and sisters around the table of the Lord. It is also our work to pay attention to who we are, rejoicing in our diversity and our unity as we serve as a visible symbol of God giving love for all that God has created.

Without signing up for a specific ministry, we can very simply be active—welcoming, and being hospitable just by the way we smile at people and make room for them in the pew, etc. Being active also means praying along with our responses and songs. It encourages those around us to join in, too. Reaching out with a wave or verbal sign at the Sign of Peace goes a long way to helping those new to the parish feel welcomed and comfortable with this faith community.

Think about these words: “Are we welcoming as Christ was welcoming?” Reflect on that question at Mass the next time.

Have a blessed, peaceful, and welcoming week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*