

## Ministers of the Eucharist: Called to Serve

Recently, as we sang the hymn, “*We Are Called to Serve*,” and listened to the gospel from Mathew where Christ was calling all of us to “follow me”; I was once again reminded of the importance of being part of the St. Thomas More community.

It is indeed a community that calls each of us to participate in the liturgy, yet since our earliest days at Copper Creek Elementary school, I like many other parishioners, participated in a quiet, respectful way but never listened to the inner call to become a more active member of our community.

Earlier this year, I heard the call and followed my heart. Our Director of Liturgy and Music, Steve Raml quietly put forth a call for additional Eucharistic Ministers for the 7:30 A.M. mass. He said to each of us, “We need you.”

Little did I realize that becoming an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, an important role the Catholic laity has served since the diocesan bishops authorized and commissioned the laity to distribute community in 1973, would have such a profound impact. Responding to the call has provided me a deeper sense of the community at St. Thomas More.

To share in the distribution of the “Body of Christ” is a deeply moving experience for a Eucharist Minister. It allows us to serve our fellow parishioners in a very personal, spiritual experience, while celebrating together the deepest meaning of our faith.

I have a new appreciation of the diversity of our parish. From those who come forward and joyfully smile and loudly proclaim “amen,” to those who come forward needing the nourishment of hope to carry them through their day. As an EM, I see the hands of those who have worked hard to care for their families, the eyes of the small children who proudly walk forward, and the celebration of the hope of Christ in the transformation of ordinary bread and wine into the whole person of the risen Christ.

*“We are called to serve, we are called by grace to cherish Christ in every face”*. If you hear the call, I encourage you to actively participate in the life of our community. Contact Steve Raml at [sraml@stmglendale.org](mailto:sraml@stmglendale.org) or call the parish office at 623-566-8222

In great humility,  
*Kathleen H. Goepfinger, Ph.D.*  
*Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist*

