

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO PARISH
HOMEBOUND/VISITATION MINISTRY

The Homebound/ Visitation Ministry has a long history at St. Charles Borromeo. Like other ministries they were on a hiatus for in-person visits during the Covid shut down and have rejuvenated this ministry over the last year.

This ministry supports the Parish Mission Statement to “... serve the diverse needs and celebrate the God-given gifts of our parishioners and the global community in a spirit of joy and generosity.” The ministry’s goal is to bring the love and support of the parish to those who cannot join us in-person at our weekend worship. Generally, our parishioners are elderly, or in some way infirmed and can no longer easily leave their homes. Many are in wheelchairs, some even bedridden. This ministry also serves area nursing homes and hospitals. The number of volunteers and parishioners that we are currently serving are as follows:

	<u>February 2023</u>
Total # Volunteers	26
Total # Parishioners	103
# Parishioners Receiving Home Visits	48
# in Nursing Facilities	33
# in Nursing Facilities Not Assigned a Visitor	16
# Parishioners Receiving Monthly Calls	19
# Temporary/ Short Term Clients	6
Hospital Visits (Unity Hospital)*	1 (3 parishioners)

Most of the work is done in home visits where the volunteers build friendships with the parishioners they are visiting. They have a short prayer service and share Holy Communion. While parishioners enjoy the camaraderie and friendship that develops with the volunteer, bringing Holy Communion brings them the most joy. They truly miss experiencing the Mass as they have throughout their lives.

An additional component of this Ministry is serving four Assisted Living/Nursing Homes in our area (i.e., Legacy at Park Crescent, Legacy at Maiden Park, Grandville Senior Center, and Edna Tina Wilson Living Center) where we conduct Communion Services or the Rosary with Communion. Our Schola Choir has been very generous and records music to be used at the Nursing Homes. Familiar hymns are chosen allowing parishioners to sing along, which they enjoy.

We recently restarted Hospital Visits at Unity Hospital*. Covid impacted this part of our ministry for quite some time, even though our priests have always been available for the Sacrament of Anointing at the facilities. As volunteers become more comfortable with hospital visits, efforts will continue to grow in this area.

Consistent feedback from our volunteers is that they receive so much more from participating in this ministry than they feel that they are giving. Parishioners share they are so thankful to have Holy Communion brought to them. They all watch the Mass on television but miss the joy of receiving Christ in the Eucharist.

The list maintained for the Homebound/ Visitation Ministry is used to provide additional outreach from our parish to this group of parishioners. Several examples include:

- The Knights of Columbus distributing Lilies at Easter and Poinsettias at Christmas. These flowers are received with great appreciation from our parishioners.
- Our Card Ministry sends handmade cards 4 times a year.
- Lap blankets and prayer shawls made by our ladies groups have been brought to the local nursing homes that we support.

To increase the outreach given to our parishioners, last August we began sending birthday cards to everyone on the ministry list. Parishioners love receiving the cards and often call the office or send notes to Father John with gratitude after receiving them.