

Parish Priest Attributes

Recently I was asked what I saw as the key attributes in regards to a priest that I would invite into the Diocese.

Five attributes came to mind. They are:

- The priest has to have a sense of call to that particular parish; believes they could share the gospel story with both parishioners and with those who are exploring the Christian faith; as well as being a person of prayer.
(God has blessed us all with different gifts. No one priest is able to excel at everything, but they must be a person of prayer as well as being able to relate the Scriptures to life. Some clergy are able to do this better with the business world, others in the world of education, while others excel in the farming world and the list goes on)
- A priest who is prepared to be a team player. (The days of the clergy being a lone ranger are over. It would be my prayer that clergy have an understanding of T.E.A.M. in the sense of *To Each A Ministry*, because of their understanding of baptism.)
- A priest who is prepared to engage with the community and reach out to the community.
- A priest who will be prepared to be involved in some Diocesan ministry such as Cursillo, EfM, Diocesan Council etc. (Effective ministry requires a balance between the various areas of responsibility and sometimes this takes effort.)
- A priest who is prepared to be creative with liturgy that enable the people of all ages to truly worship God.

I acknowledge that there are many other attributes to consider but the five above would be my starting point.

+ **Bill Ray**