



Are You Willing  
**To Serve God**  
*and*  
**His Church?**

By Fr. Augustinos Hanna

The Lord wants everyone to be an active member in the church, to serve God, people and his/her own eternal life.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught us that ministry is a **MUST** for our salvation, as well as a blessing and an honor. In Matthew 25: 14 - 30, He mentioned the parable of the talents which indicated that everyone has 5 or 2 or at least 1 talent. You have to invest your God-given talents and win, or else you will lose them and be thrown into the outer darkness. There is no place for idle people in the kingdom of God.

Many people say, "we do not know how to serve. What kinds of services are there that a layperson can do? Or, no one asked us!" In this article, I am telling you that the Lord Jesus is inviting you to start; He promised a great reward, here and in heaven (Matt. 20 & 25). St. Paul also says, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58).

You will see here, a long list of services available to you, choose whatever fits your talents and time, circle one or more, and arrange with the priests of the church and be committed to it.

## Senior Citizens:

1. Drive a senior to Sunday (or Wednesday or Friday) Liturgy or Vespers.
2. Drive a senior to and back physician's office or a pharmacy.
3. Give a senior a drive to a super market, store or a bank.
4. Accompany a senior to a park or a restaurant.
5. Visit a senior at home or in a hospital, or a nursing home.

## Women's services (Marthas):

6. Emergency services (e.g., Care for children, prepare a meal and doing light housework).
7. Help with telephone calls (telephone tree: every lady calls 10 friends or neighbors in urgent events).
8. Prepare a dish for a funeral luncheon.
9. Consolation service.
10. Baby sitting.
11. Help serve or cleanup in church.
12. In children's nursery.
13. Cafeteria work.

14. Observing order and cleanliness in the church.
15. Help in kitchen, crafts and festivals.
16. Serving in women's meetings.
17. Beautifying the church, decorating and the service of flowers and roses.
18. Translation services.
19. Welcoming church guests.
20. Helping in weddings, women and girls' baptism and communion.
21. Secretarial works, computer & typing.
22. First aid services.
23. Choir, music, arts.
24. Church Library and bookstore.
25. Services of charitable works like Tabitha (Acts 9:39-41), Lydia in prayer meetings (Acts 16); Priscilla and the mother of Rufus in guidance and hospitality (Acts 18:26; Rom. 16:13).

## **Sunday School & Children's Needs:**

26. Teaching.
27. Pictures, Video and audiovisuals.
28. Bringing the children to church if their parents are not coming.
29. Children's camps and picnics.
30. Serving the children in the crying room.
31. Distributing gifts to the children in the Feasts of Christmas, Easter, Halloween and birthdays.
32. Visiting Sunday school children.
33. The Summer Club.
34. Children's library.

## **Youth Services:**

35. Deacons services.
36. Bible study and teaching.
37. The individual service (one on one – James 5:19, 20).
38. Inviting and calling the speakers for the youth meetings.
39. Visitation to the youth.
40. Telephone services.
41. Working in the program committee.
42. Youth summer and winter conventions and retreats.
43. Helping new comers in transportation and applying for their children in schools.
44. Helping the priests in distributing food-bank products to the needy.

45. Spiritual days, youth picnics, children's Boy Scout and camps.
46. Working in the church bookstore and library.
47. Teaching English or Spanish or Arabic or Coptic language(s).
48. Writing or translating articles.
49. Supervising the youth' summer club, spirituality and sports.
50. Sending greeting cards and inquiring in case of absence.
51. Telephone recording messages.
52. Welcoming new youth and taking their addresses and phone numbers.
53. Teaching in Sunday school classes.
54. Choir, hymns and musical instruments.
55. Organizing or directing Youth celebrations and plays.
56. Taking pictures in important occasions.
57. Recording sermons and Bible studies.
58. Copying documents and articles.
59. Ushers' work.
60. Watching over the church parking lot, keeping order, cleanliness and quietness.
61. Arts, painting and playing musical instruments.
62. The prayer meeting.
63. Serving in missionary work, in Africa or Mexico.
64. Tutoring.
65. Church Board of deacons.

## **Serving the Infirm (Sick):**

66. Visiting the sick in hospitals, homes and convalescent homes.
67. Assisting the priests in taking communion to the sick.
68. Distributing books, magazines, Bibles, pamphlets, cassettes, pictures and flowers to the sick.
69. Praying and reading the Bible with the sick people.

## **Serving the Needy:**

70. Provide shelter, food, clothes, furniture, blankets to the needy and toys, for poor children.
71. Searching for work to them.
72. Helping them financially and by all means, to stand on their feet.
73. Adopting a needy family here or in Egypt or Africa.



## Hospitality:

- 74. Serve coffee, tea and doughnuts.
- 75. Purchase or maintain flowers.
- 76. Entertain strangers & guests.

## Stewardship:

- 77. Willing to serve in financial, legal or personal areas.
- 78. Willing to serve in maintenance, management for church facilities.
- 79. Cleaning and polishing vessels.
- 80. Washing towels, dry-cleaning vestments and ironing altar covers and linens.
- 81. Vacuuming the church carpet.
- 82. Church bulletin board.
- 83. Visiting prisons.
- 84. Baking the holy bread (Korban).
- 85. Providing Bibles, Prayer books, icons, candles, oil for the candles, incense, coverings of the altar, curtains, the reading books, the altar vessels, wine, flower and other ministry supplies.
- 86. Arranging church trips.
- 87. Providing bathroom supplies, towels, toilet paper, soap and detergents.

## Grounds Beautification committee:

- 88. Landscaping.
- 89. Cutting the lawn.
- 90. Keeping order and calmness.
- 91. Cleaning the premises...
- 92. Caring for the trees and flowers.

Weddings, Baptisms & funerals:

- 93. Deacons' services needed.
- 94. Rehearsals.
- 95. Church decoration.
- 96. Sewing Baptismal garments.

## Church Library & Bookstore:

- 97. Publicity, advertising and printing labels.
- 98. Completing the shortage in books, gifts, crosses, magazines, pictures, cassettes, videos and CDs.
- 99. Recording, audio and visual sermons in feasts, festivals and important activities
- 100. Postal services and parcels.
- 101. Catalogue & Inventory work.

## **Lectors:**

- 102. Training on reading the liturgical Scriptures correctly.
- 103. Presentations for the youth and the children.
- 104. Proclaiming the word of God and Bible Study.
- 105. Computer Network, the church website, PowerPoint, and projectors.

## **Counseling, peace-making services:**

- 106. Assisting the priests in family problems and disputes.
- 107. Assisting newly married couples.
- 108. Classes of marriage preparation

## **Helping New Comers:**

- 109. Find an apartment close to the church
- 110. Moving furniture to them.
- 111. Help them find a used car; get a driver's license and insurance.
- 112. Help them to open a bank account and get a social security card
- 113. Introduce them to the church members to welcome them and help them in whatever things they need.
- 114. Guide them to find good schools for their children.
- 115. Help them find a job.
- 116. Tell them about a good doctor from the church until they get medical insurance.
- 117. Guide them to an immigration lawyer if needed.
- 118. Give them a ride to all places they may need.

## **Writing and Miscellaneous:**

- 119. Write articles, columns, and stories for the church magazine.
- 120. Share in publicity and postal services or as a news' reporter and bring new subscribers to it.
- 121. Help in church membership list
- 122. Share in fund raising projects.

**Be serious, devoted and committed to your service as a token of love.**