

# Co-Workers in Ministry

## Preview Sheet & Assignment

### Pre-Reading

- 1 Corinthians 3:5-15 (The Role of God's Ministers)
- John 15:1-17 (The Vine and the Branches)
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (One Body, Many Parts)

### Assignment

The U.S. Bishops' document *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord* reminds us that all the baptized share in Christ's mission. Lay ministry is not "helping the clergy do their work," but a genuine call to serve the Church and the world through gifts that are unique, diverse, and Spirit-led. Healthy lay ministry balances service with prayer, humility with leadership, and personal discipleship with community responsibility.

Write a short reflection including these areas:

- How do you understand your baptismal call to ministry in light of being a "co-worker in the vineyard"?
- What does healthy lay ministry look like to you? How can lay ministers stay grounded in faith while avoiding burnout?
- In your experience, how can lay and ordained ministers best collaborate rather than compete?
- Think of a lay minister you admire. What qualities make their ministry life-giving—for themselves and for others?