

*..a stranger and you welcomed me....
Matthew 25: 35*

Leading a Parish of Welcome

Inviting, Receiving, and Retaining

Presented by Katie Price, Archdiocese of Chicago
Parish Stewardship Coordinator

Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Introduction: Welcome as a Ministry of Stewardship
- III. Inviting
- IV. Receiving
- V. Retaining
- VI. Materials Overview

Welcome

How were you welcomed at the Parish?

Would a different welcome have made a difference?

How are we welcoming new people to our community?

How are we providing the welcome to everyone?

Personal, Memorable, Planned



Welcome as a Ministry of Stewardship

Part of the stewardship responsibility is to share God's gifts you have been given with others, this is each Parishioners responsibility.

Jesus had a personal ministry, we are to work toward a personal ministry in communion with each other and with newcomers

Stewardship is a way of life, inviting people into the life of the church, into the Body of Christ is a responsibility we all share...simply, it is the Ministry of Stewardship

What does this look like?

Stewardship Ministry of Welcome

Intentional and planned welcome process for all Parishioners, new and old

Personal meeting with invitation to come back

Intentional discussion on stewardship- time, talent, and treasure

Acknowledgement and Follow-Up

Active presence- seen as connectors

Traditional Welcome Ministry/Greeters

Focus on New Parishioners...Only

Friendly face passing out bulletins

Passive approach, bag, mail piece, etc.

Light stewardship discussion (aka, here are your envelopes)

Donut Brigade

Two minutes:
Stewardship
Hospitality...





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How many of you remember your first mass at the Parish? ...Even your return Mass after time away?

Inviting--> Sending the invitations and prep

The 3 Rule--> Floater, Leader, Successor

Database/ Office Structure

Communicate you are open for business!

-Christmas Bulletin, web/email button, local businesses, in-pew elements

Be intentional, personal, and planned

Receiving→ The New Parishioner Process

Easy access to joining - in-person or online

Immediate...yes, immediate, email/phone regarding the “process”

Host one-on-one- ALL about them, save “you” for last

“Ministry Welcome” plan

Host New Parishioner Ministry Fair and “Connections” class/program quarterly

Retaining--> Working with your current parishioners

How often have you heard, “I didn’t know we had that?”

Showcase 3 T’s in action, witness testimony

Create Ministry succession planning

“No Commitment Week” --> try out ministry of choosing

People don’t want to go in alone...have welcome ministers at meeting

Why do people leave?

Why do some people stay?

Research shows that people who leave a Parish may:

->Long for a sense of community they haven't been able to find in the church.

->Suffer from an extended illness, or an emotional or personal crisis. If they are not already connected to the church in meaningful ways, they won't turn there for help and support.

->Not think they have time, especially if they don't have special relationships or other connections at the church.

->Realize the Parish isn't a good fit for them.

->Have lost the energy and enthusiasm they once had for staying. They have found it difficult, if not impossible, to get connected to something that could sustain them.

Materials Available to Your Parish

Member one-on-one overview

Example Welcome Ministry graphic

Newcomer Checklist

Creating a Space that is Welcoming

Stewardship Welcome Ministry Description

Let's answer some questions.
Thank you!