

Parish Life Commission Report
Commission Meeting November 13, 2017
Theme: Welcoming

Present:

Boy Scouts	Pam Titzer
Catholic Women's Club	Steph Janiszewski
Finance Committee	Mary Pat Flaherty
Implementation	Ernie Froemel
Senior Women's Club	Marge Schwender

The group addressed the following questions:

How can we be more welcoming as a Parish?
How do we welcome new people into our ministries?
How do we welcome new leadership into our ministries?
How can we make it easier for people to join ministries?
What can we do to make joining ministries more inviting to others?
What are the ways someone may hear about your ministry?
Do our ministries exhibit hospitality?

Hospitality. All agreed that the most important element of hospitality, whether in our ministry or in the parish in general, is personal outreach. Several members suggested a Hospitality Committee which would be responsible for various outreach activities, including:

- Greeters at Mass who will take the initiative to speak with individuals, especially those who might look unfamiliar or new – be cognizant of those “standing on the outskirts” of a gathering and reach out to them
- Opportunities after Mass to socialize in Unity Hall
- Assigning new parishioners a “mentor” who will help orient them and will act as a liaison between the new parishioners and members of organizations in which the new parishioners may be interested
- Organizing a monthly or quarterly event for new parishioners to help them get to know one another as well as other members of the parish
- Recognize new parishioners, whether through the bulletin, name tags or other means

New Leadership. Catholic Women's Club “trains” new leaders through committee work. Personal outreach is employed to invite active members to consider leadership positions. The Senior Women's Club, which has been in existence for about 6 years, was started by Beth Olson, who asked Marge to assist. So far they have maintained the leadership of that organization.

Publicity. We discussed how ministries can make themselves known to new and existing parishioners. All agreed that items in the bulletin are important, but there was acknowledgement that not all parishioners come to Mass or read the bulletin. We discussed using the parish website, mass e-mails and Facebook. We also discussed highlighting one or two ministries per month in after-Mass gatherings in Unity Hall.