

RECONCILIATION PROGRAMS and RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY WITH INACTIVE CATHOLICS

Ambassador of Christ: Building Reconciling Communities

Explores the faces of alienation and methods of reaching out to the alienated. Examines theological, pastoral and psychological implications of reconciliation. Celebrate liturgical rites.

North American Forum on the Catechumenate, 3033 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017-1102

Tel: 202-529-9493, Fax: 202-529-9497, www.naforum.org

Awakening Faith

Awakening Faith is a small-group program where inactive Catholics meet for six sessions and discuss essays on topics such as spirituality, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's mercy, the Mass, and the church. The meetings also consist of prayer, reflection, and faith-sharing. Parish manual is \$40, group leader guide is \$16, and participant booklets are \$8-\$10 depending on quantity.

awakeningfaith.org

Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, 3031 Fourth St., NE, Washington, DC, 20017-1102

Telephone: 202 -832-5022, Fax: 202-269-0209, E-mail: pncea@pncea.org, www.pncea.org

Catholics Come Home

Catholics Come Home, Inc. is an independent, non-profit Catholic apostolate that creates effective and compassionate media messages and broadcasts them nationally and internationally, in order to inspire, educate and evangelize inactive Catholics and others, and invite them to live a deeper faith in Jesus Christ, in accord with the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church.

www.catholicscomehome.org

Catholics Coming Home

Carrie Kemp, Kairos: Pastoral Ministries, 460 E. Annapolis St., West St. Paul, MN 55118. (651) 457-5427

Catholics Can Come Home Again: A Guide for the Journey of Reconciliation with Inactive Catholics by Carrie Kemp.

New York: Paulist Press, 2001. www.paulistpress.com. A handbook for welcoming inactive Catholics back to membership or participation in a parish community. Provides insights as to why some return and some don't, as well as a six session process for helping people return.

Catholics Coming Home: A Journey of Reconciliation: A Handbook for Churches Reaching Out to Inactive Catholics by Carrie Kemp and Donald Pologruto (Harper).

Catholics Reaching Out

Catholics Reaching Out helps Catholics invite inactive Catholics to consider returning to the Church. The starter kit includes 50 *We Miss You* invitations, 50 *Parishioner Guides*, one *Parish Manual*, a *Display Poster* with attachable pocket, and an order form to purchase additional materials. Price: \$59.95 for Starter Kit.

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Catholics Returning Home: A Ministry of Compassion and Reconciliation

Catholics Returning Home is an RCIA-like process for reaching out and inviting inactive Catholics to return "home" to the Church and resume an active practice of their faith. It is conducted in a non-judgmental support-group format. However, a sequence of topics on the basics of Catholicism is covered during the six-week series so that attendees are updated. The process is both formational and informational.

Sally Mews, 15925 W. Anna Dr., Wadsworth, IL 60083

(847) 855-0629, Email: ssmews@msn.com; www.catholicsreturninghome.org

Mews, Sally. *Returning Home to Your Catholic Faith: An Invitation*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Press, 2003. www.liguori.org
Guidebook that includes books, bulletin and website resources.

Mews, Sally. *Inviting Catholics Home: A Parish Program*, 2002 and *Video: Stories of Faith*.

Come and See (John 1:46) -- Diocese of Buffalo

Come and See is offered on the first Thursday of every month (except July) and draws 80-150 people. Advertising is diocesan-wide. There is a general theme or each evening (forgiveness, God's will, reconciliation, prayer, guilt, anger, etc.) A guest host or hostess opens with a prayer and a short witness talk. A guest priest gives a 30-minute talk on the theme. After a short break, there is "table talk" (facilitated by team members), which allows participants to choose a specific topic for information or small group discussion. Topics include divorce and separation, annulments, confession, prayer, coping with cancer, when someone dies, interfaith marriage, answering fundamentalist questions, bible basics, Catholic singles, etc. Referrals are made to priests, parishes, diocesan departments and Catholic organizations.

Come and See (John 1:46) c/o St. Benedict Church
1317 Eggert Road, Buffalo, New York 14226
716-565-2525 (24 hours a day)

Lorene Duquin, Coordinator
Tel: 716-632-0369, Fax: 716-632-7851
email: Lduquin@aol.com

Landings

Landings is a parish-based small group process with a dimension of apostolic outreach. Landings empowers laity to welcome back returning Catholics in a structured process that takes 8 - 10 weeks. <http://www.landings-international.org>
Contact : Joan Horn - Phone: 512-452-7566, E-mail: jhorn@paulist.org.

OnceCatholic.org

The mission of OnceCatholic.org is to put inactive Catholics back in touch with a face-to-face community of Catholics. Along the way, they want to walk with each person as he/she sorts through their issues with the Church. Find out more about this ministry at www.AmericanCatholic.org.
St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnati, OH 45210, 513 241-5615, ext. 116 or www.OnceCatholic.org

Reaching Out: A Manual for Evangelizing Inactive Catholics. Resource Packet.

Designed to assist the parish in surfacing, inviting, and nurturing inactive Catholics, and in helping them to explore a return to the Church.

Evangelization Ministry, Archdiocese of Louisville, 1200 South Shelby St., Louisville, KY 40203-2600, (502) 636-0296.

We Miss You

The We Miss You program is an outreach program to inactive Catholics developed by the Omaha Archdiocesan Commission on Evangelization. It combines the faith journey of the RCIA process with a modern media campaign of invitation. What makes this program unique is the fact that it is a "complete process." The We Miss You program is documented in book form under the same name. The authors are Gary Petri, Nancy Koley, and Sr. Marian Klostermann, OSF.
Sheed and Ward, 7373 S. Lovers Lane Road, Franklin, WI 53132
Phone: 800-558-0580, Fax: 800-369-4448, ISBN# 1-55612-613-1

Helpful reading/viewing:

An Invitation, With No Strings Attached: When the Ones You Love Leave the Church. Video. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 2004. Almost every Catholic has a friend or family member who has stopped going to Church. Video to give to friends and family members, inviting them to return to the Church, especially to the local parish. It offers space at the end to video tape a local parish message to inactive Catholics.

Aridas, Rev. Chris, Steve Benthall and John J. Boucher. *From Ashes to Fire: A Parish Process for Lenten, Eastertide and Pentecost Evangelization.* Brentwood, NY: CHARISM, 1999. boucherjohn@hotmail.com. How to draw active, marginal and inactive Catholics into deeper relationships with Jesus Christ and the Church through annual evangelistic Ash Wednesdays.

Barbernitz, Patricia. *Parish Ministry for Returning Catholics.* Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1993.

Bausch, William. *While You Were Gone: A Handbook for Returning Catholics and those thinking about it.* Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1994.

Bellito, Christopher M. *Lost and Found Catholics: Voices of Vatican II.* Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1999. Ministry ideas for welcoming inactive and returning Catholics in 20's and 30' age bracket.

- Boucher, John and Therese. *When You Notice the Empty Pews: Simple Ways to Share Our Faith*. Princeton, NJ: Christkey.com. 2008.
- Boucher, Therese. *Bringing Our Grandchildren to God*. Princeton, NJ: Christkey.com, 2008. 609-452-8954, e-mail: tmfboucher@comcast.net. www.catholicsevagelizer.com. Grandparents are natural family evangelizers. Desire to share faith and Sunday worship is at the heart of God's call. Find out how you can touch young people's lives in grace-filled, but simple ways, and even reach out to their parents.
- Boucher, Therese. *Evangelizing Unchurched Children: A Pocketbook for Catechists*. Princeton, NJ: www.catholicsevagelizer.com, 2008. 609-452-8954, e-mail: tmfboucher@comcast.net. Practical ways to reach out to evangelize unchurched children and their inactive Catholic families through faith stories, Scripture, drama, sacraments, and symbols exploring implications of the Church's *General Directory for Catechesis*.
- Boucher, Therese. *Making Friends With the Saints*. Boston, MA: Daughters of St. Paul, 1990. 50 St. Paul Ave., Boston, MA, 02130, (800) 376-9121, www.pauline.org or www.christkey.com. E-mail: pauline@netrover.com. Inactive Catholics are often open to the faith stories of the Saints who have touched their lives in some way. Deepening their relationships with these friends of Jesus often leads them back to Christ and the Church.
- Boucher, Therese and John. *Christmas Carol Festival: A New Way to Reach Inactive Catholics!* Princeton, NJ: www.catholicsevagelizer.com, 2008. 609-452-8954, e-mail: tmfboucher@comcast.net. Web site: www.christmascarolfestival.com. Sacred Christmas carols are a powerful proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ! This project helps inactive, marginal, or unchurched Catholics connect with our Christian heritage, with the Church, and with Jesus Christ through caroling in the weeks before and after Christmas. Resources include a *Christmas Carol Festival Guidebook*, training CD, blog, and online video resources!
- Burke, Harriet, Bill Edens, Ken McGuire and Maggie Stapp. *People, Promise & Community*. New York and Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1997.
- Champlin, Joseph. *The Marginal Catholic: Challenge, Don't Crush*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1989.
- Christian Hospitality: A Handbook for Parishes*. Evangelization Ministry, Archdiocese of Louisville, 1200 South Shelby St., Louisville, KY 40203-2600, (502) 636-0296, Hospitality is more than waiting for people to come to Church; it is as important as a way that we bring Church to the people. Handbook contains sample parish models and programs.
- Committee on Evangelization, National Conference of Catholic Bishops. *A Time to Listen... A Time to Heal: A Resource Directory for Reaching Out to Inactive Catholics*. Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1999. www.usccb.org/evangelization/index.htm. Selection of programs being used to evangelize inactive Catholics.
- Dallen, James and Favazza, Joseph. *Removing the Barriers: The Practice of Reconciliation*. Chicago, IL: Liturgy Training Publications, 1991.
- D'Antonio, William V., James D. Davidson, Dean R. Hoge and Mary L. Gautier. *American Catholics Today: New Realities of Their Faith and Their Church*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2007.
- Davidson, James, Andrea Williams, Richard Lamanna, Jan Stenftenagel, Kathleen Weigert, William Whalen and Patricia Wittberg, SC. *The Search for Common Ground, What Unites and Divides Catholic Americans*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1997.
- Duquin, Lorene Hanley. *Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church?* New York: Alba House, 1997. www.albahouse.org. Why people come back and what they come back to are also considered in a way that is designed to help an individual make up his or her own mind about what God may be asking.
- Duquin, Lorene Hanley. *When a Loved One Leaves the Church: What You Can Do*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2001. www.osv.com. Church teaching, sociological studies, and plain old common sense to bring comfort and understanding to those who bear the burden of having a loved one leave the Faith.
- Fehren, Rev. Henry. *Good News for Alienated Catholics: With Reflection Questions for Teachers and Preachers*. Resource Publications.
- Finley, Mitch. *It's Not The Same Without You: Coming Home to the Catholic Church*. NY: Doubleday, 2003.
- Finley, Mitch. *The Seeker's Guide to Being Catholic*. Chicago, IL: Loyola Press, 1997.

Fitzgerald, William J. *Stories of Coming Home*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press 1997.

Greeley, Andrew. *Crisis in the Church: A Study of Religion in America*. Chicago, IL: Thomas More Press, 1979, and also *The Catholic Myth: The Behavior and Beliefs of American Catholics*. New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1990.

Grgic, Bob. *Reconciliation: Prayers of Healing and Forgiveness - a Youth Ministry Handbook*. Kansas City, MO: Sheed & Ward, 1992.

Hahn, Scott and Hahn, Kimberly. *Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1993.

Harmony, Sarah. *Re-Membering/The Ministry of Welcoming Alienated and Inactive Catholics*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1991.

McKee, Rev. William, CSSR. *Reaching Out to Inactive Catholics*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 1980. *How to Reach Out to Inactive Catholics*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 1982. Also *Inactive Catholics- Why They Leave... Why They Return*. Video. www.liguori.org Compassionate approach with examples of people who decide to return.

PNCEA's New Movers List Program. Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association. Washington, DC 20017. (202) 832-5022, www.pncea.org, Resource to help parishes to reach out by mail to newcomers via zip codes. New movers lists provided monthly to help with outreach.

Reconciling Community—Celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. Washington, DC: PNCEA, 2005. www.pncea.org, Resources to invite inactive/active Catholics to the Sacrament of Reconciliation—with sample letters, penance services, examination of conscience, *What is the Sacrament of Penance?* Brochures, and Parish Guide and CD.

Rigney, Melanie and Anna M. Lanave. *When They Come Home: Ways to welcome returning Catholics*. New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2009. www.23rdpublications.com

Saltarelli, Bishop Michael A. "How to Reach Inactive Catholics: A Pastoral Statement by the Diocese of Wilmington" *Origins*, January 27, 2000. www.cdow.org/inactivecatholics2.html Caring responses based on research by the National Bishops on why people become inactive.

Strangers No More: An Educational Process for Contacting, Inviting, Welcoming, and Integrating Alienated and Inactive Catholics. Cleveland, OH: Diocese of Cleveland, 1996. Office of Evangelization, 1031 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114. Resource of ministry tools from many previously published works for reaching out to Inactive Catholics.

Resources for Inviting Inactive Catholics to Return (PNCEA)

Catholics Reaching Out. Washington: Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, 2005. See: www.pncea.org.

A set of resources to encourage and equip active Catholics to invite inactive Catholics to consider returning to the Church. Resources include: *We Miss You* invitations, *Parishioner Guide*, *Parish Manual*, and an attractive *Display Poster* with attachable pocket. A Starter Kit with copies of each item is available.

Reconciling Community—Celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. Washington: Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, 2005. See: www.pncea.org.

A set of resources to encourage the celebration of the sacrament of Penance by active and inactive Catholics. The resources include: a *Parish Guide and CD* which provides sample letters of invitation and prayers for seasonal communal penance services; a pocket-sized *Examination of Conscience*; and *What is the Sacrament of Penance*, a brochure that explains the revised rite of reconciliation and answers frequently asked questions.

PNCEA's New Movers List Program. See: www.pncea.org.

Approximately 20% of people who become inactive do so after moving to a new community. They just don't reconnect. It is now much easier to reach out to the new movers in the community by mail and personally invite them to the parish. The Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association can provide an electronic file of new movers lists by zip code to parishes on a monthly basis to support that outreach.

Materials to Give Inactive Catholics (PNCEA)

Catholic Prayers for Every Day

A pocket-size pamphlet containing a number of popular and memorable Catholic prayers. Available through www.pncea.org.

Mews, Sally L. *Returning Home to Your Catholic Faith: An Invitation*. Liguori, Mo.: Liguori Publications, 2003. This short book helps an inactive Catholic return to the Church. The topics covered include reasons for returning, changes in the Church, how to reconnect with a parish, and insights and explanations about the Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation, and the Nicene Creed.

What is the Sacrament of Penance?

A PNCEA brochure which answers frequently asked questions about the sacrament of penance and reconciliation. See *Reconciling Community* above for more details. Available at www.pncea.org.

Handbook for Today's Catholic. Liguori, Mo.: Liguori Publications, 2004.

Written in easy-to-read, easy-to-understand language, the *Handbook for Today's Catholic* details the essential truths, popular prayers and practices of the Catholic faith, and suggests practical ways to integrate faith and life. Also available in Spanish.

DeSiano, Frank, CSP. *Yes, I Can Believe*. Washington: Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, 2005. This booklet offers six easy-to-read essays on God, God's word, Jesus, Jesus' Church, a life of holiness, and everlasting life. Each essay connects our human longings with the gifts of Catholic belief and ends with questions for quiet reflection. It can help the returning Catholic discover all that his/her faith has to offer.

Resources for the Parish Leaders of Outreach

DeSiano, Frank, CSP, and Kenneth Boyack, CSP. *Commentary and Planning Guide for Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*. Washington: Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, 1993.

Through a discussion of the goals and strategies for the U.S. bishops' national plan, this book provides a background and context for a parish's ministry of reconciliation. The book contains the text of the U.S. bishops' document, *Go and Make Disciples*.

DeSiano, Frank, CSP, and Kenneth Boyack, CSP. *Discovering My Experience of God*. New York: Paulist Press, 1992.

Designed to facilitate the faith-sharing process, this pastoral resource enables the reader to become aware of the contours of his or faith and then equips the reader to share this experience. This book could be helpful in the formation process for the *Catholics Reaching Out* coordinating team and for the parish representatives who will talk with returning Catholics.

Go and Make Disciples, A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1993.

Developed through the USCCB Committee on Evangelization, this document presents a vision of Catholic evangelization and three goals through which parishes can achieve their full evangelizing potential. Specific sections refer to the invitation and reconciliation of inactive Catholics.

John Paul II. *The Church in America*. Washington: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1999.

Subtitled *On the Encounter with the Living Jesus Christ: The Way to Conversion, Communion, and Solidarity in America*, this apostolic exhortation presents reflections on the power of encountering Christ and how this encounter can change a person's life.

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States. Washington: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1999.

This resource contains sections that highlight the qualities of mature adult faith and discipleship and identify six essential dimensions of adult faith formation content. The book presents a model of faith formation for both active Catholics and those returning to the Church.

Rivers, Robert S., CSP. *From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish*. New York: Paulist Press, 2005.

Each chapter develops an insight into Catholic evangelization. The book contains three parts. Part I offers insights around Vatican II and the Church's evangelizing mission; Part II focuses on *Go and Make Disciples*, the U.S. bishops' plan for Catholic evangelization; and Part III highlights the elements of an evangelizing parish. This book helps a reader to understand the theory and context for a parish's reconciliation ministry.

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