



Best Practices for Parishes

www.InviteSomeoneToChurch.com

Our new **InviteSomeoneToChurch™** initiative is a simple way that your parish can invite people home using the effective and successful tools that Catholics Come Home® have developed over the past 25 years. It's simple, easy, and doesn't cost you or your parish anything.

Remember, people who respond to the invitation from a friend or seeing Catholics Come Home® commercial on your parish website, or on TV, radio, and streaming are not seeking a program – they are seeking an encounter with Christ. This encounter with Christ is at the core of everything we do in the Church. As Pope Paul VI reminded us, **"the Church exists in order to evangelize"** (EN 14). The Church exists to proclaim the Good News and bring people to an intimate encounter with Christ.

Below you will find some best practices for running a simple **Invite Someone to Church** campaign during Advent or Lent. (If you prefer www.InviteSomeoneToMass.com goes to the same webpage.)

- 1) **Link Resources to Parish Website and Social Media:** Use the Catholics Come Home® resources made available for the parish website, Facebook and Flocknote.
- 2) **Preach on Evangelization:** The Pastor's primary role is to encourage his parish and staff to evangelize; to share the good news with others and witness to it in their actions. Many Catholics simply fell out of practice and need to be lovingly invited back. Directly welcome those who have been away. Let them know of your love and support. Remind them of Christ's mercy in the Sacrament of confession, and other opportunities to grow in their faith.
- 3) **Show the Commercials:** Show the commercials to your staff, to your parish council, and when appropriate, to your entire community. Challenge them to share their faith and invite people back to Church.
- 4) **Make Pulpit Announcements:** Announce the campaign. Invite your active parishioners to be the catalyst to growth. Share your intentions as a Pastor and as a community for inviting and receiving returning Catholics.
- 5) **Handout Invite Cards:** Beautiful business cards with your parish details are a great way to encourage people home. We have several free templates on Canva.
- 6) **Prayer:** All the collective efforts of the community must be offered up in prayer. The Parish is encouraged to pray specifically those who have left the Church, those who may have been hurt by the Church, and those who are returning home.
- 7) **Welcoming People Home:** Most people who come back show up to Mass or in the confessional. We don't recommend programs, but it is important to be welcoming, hospitable, warm, and invite people to participate fully in parish life.