

7 Ways to Make it Easier to Join Up or In

"I want to join the parish"

1. REGISTRATION: Make it easy and friendly! Can registration happen when I am already there for Mass or another activity?
 - a. Is the parish office open during these times?
 - b. Are there members of the parish who can register new members if the office is not open?
 - c. Is there a computer someone can use to fill out a registration form?
2. WELCOME: Make it friendly, informative and clear!
 - a. Expectations: (Is this parish walking its talk-committed to its mission?)
 - i. How will I know what is expected of me as a member?
 - ii. What am I expected to do to support the parish's mission? To what degree?
 - iii. What are the consequences for not supporting the parish's mission?
 - iv. How will my family be enabled to engage in this work also?
 - b. Benefits: (WIIFM: What's in it for me?)
 - i. What can I expect to receive as a member of this parish?
 - ii. How will my children/teens/elders be cared for?
 - iii. What is here for my non-Catholic family member?
 - c. Gifts: (Can I make a meaningful contribution?)
 - i. Who finds out what I am interested in, good at or have experience with?
 - ii. How will this work for my family members?
 - iii. How will my gifts be nourished, respected and allowed to be given?
3. CONNECTIONS: Introduce, invite and follow-up until connections are established.
 - a. Who will make a connection with me/us now that we have registered? How and when will that happen?
 - b. Are there other people who will know we have registered? Who are they and what can we expect from them?
 - c. When will there be an opportunity to meet others?

"I want to join an activity or a ministry"

1. INITIAL STEPS: Publicize these and designate people to welcome and orient others.
 - a. Are there annual time periods for entering into an activity? Are they published?
 - b. Who will talk with me about my interest now? How will they reach me or do I reach out to them? How and when is it most convenient?
 - c. Where will I find descriptions of the activity or ministry?
 - d. Are there specific requirements for this activity or ministry? Where will I find those?
2. FIRST MEETING: Have companions and an onboarding process.
 - a. Who will be there to greet me and accompany me for these first steps?
 - b. Do I have to officially sign up or register?
 - c. Do I have to be Catholic to do this? Are there other requirements that I may have not seen or understood?
 - d. What is the current area of greatest need in the activity/ministry?

- e. How does this “work” in terms of leadership, structure, meetings, purpose? Who’s in charge?
3. GETTING STARTED: Accompany, guide and encourage!
- a. Who will walk with me into the work of this group and help me know I am making a contribution that matters?
 - b. What do I do if I have questions?
 - c. How do I change duties if I don’t care for what I am being asked to do?
 - d. What if I discover this is not what I thought and I’d like to stop...what do I do?
4. FINISHING UP: Accompany, listen and celebrate!
- a. Are there designated terms of service? What happens if those cannot be met?
 - b. I’ve done the work I came to do and would like to step aside. Who do I talk with and what is involved?
 - c. Will I have a chance to share the graces and trials of this work with leaders? How will that happen?
 - d. How do we share with others the good that we do?

So there you have it...some ways to make it easier to join up or join in. Let these spark other ideas, and lead to other conversations as you discover the ways the Spirit is inspiring you to open wide the doors!