

Catechetical Resources

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The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix

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To Whom It May Concern:

This past Lent we participated in a test-market for CatholicsComeHome.org and aired the commercials throughout our Diocese. The incredible fruits of the campaign have been overwhelming. Thousands have returned home, people have been renewed in their faith for Christ, and Catholics throughout our Diocese are continuing to share the Good News with others. In support of the continued efforts of Catholics Come Home Inc. we have made the promotional materials, as well as the evangelization & catechetical tools we used in preparation for this campaign available for other Diocese who will participate in the airing of these beautiful commercials.

We hope you encounter in this resource materials that you can use to help your Diocese prepare fertile soil for the many seeds that will be planted. May God bless your efforts and multiply your flock, and may Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas pray for us.

In His Service,

Ryan Hanning

Coordinator of Adult Evangelization

Diocese of Phoenix

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I) Statistical Snapshot

Commercials:

- 3.5 Million people within Phoenix saw the commercials
- Over 6000 unique visitors from Phoenix to the CatholicsComeHome.org
- 93% of Pastors, Deacons, & Catechetical Leaders surveyed felt the Commercials Succeeded at Inviting People Home.
- 96% of Pastors, Deacons and Catechetical Leaders surveyed found CatholicsComeHome.org helpful

Immediate Impact:

- 21% of Parishes saw an increase in Mass Attendance
 - Many parishes reported increases over and above what was experienced in 2000.
- 25% of Parishes saw an increase in contacts to Parish Offices
 - Parish receptionists fielded thousands of calls directly related to the Commercials.
- Pastors throughout deaneries reported increased attendance at Communal Penance Services, and hundreds of reports of confessions directly inspired by commercials.
- Pastors, Deacons and Catechetical Leaders reported increases over and above normal for the Lenten and Easter Season. Numbers continue to be larger than normal throughout the Easter Season.
- 600 Individuals directly emailed CatholicsComeHome.org or the Diocese inquiring about a variety of difficult issues during the Test-Market. Each one was responded to and 90% fell into dialog with a Diocesan employee picked to answer the particular issue.

Profile of Returning Catholics:

- 80% - 90% of those who identified themselves as returning did not articulate a doctrinal issue as a reason why they left.
 - As many as 90% who returned said they were waiting for an invite. This number is supported by the findings of Pew Charitable Trust "Religious Landscape in America" that found a majority of Americans have left the faith of their childhood due to social stressors this devalue religious affiliation and practice.
- 20% indicated having Marriage issues, however only 7% indicated that was a reason why they left. All of the 7% fell into dialog with our Offices and many are currently seeking annulments.
 - While many inquired about the status of their marriage very few had actually
- 50% of those who articulated doctrinal issues as a reason why they left exhibited a fundamental misunderstanding about the Churches teaching.
 - The primary misunderstandings surrounded the Churches teaching on marriage, and same sex attractions.
- 40% of those who emailed or called referred to the Priest Sex Abuse scandal. However, 90% of those who referred to the scandal left the Church before 1998.
 - Many who inquired about this had grossly exaggerated estimates of sex abuse and had been uninformed about the Churches response. An empathetic apology, along with request for prayers for seemed to bear much fruit.

2) Pastoral, Evangelization & Future Catechetical Implications

(Taken from An ongoing Assessment of the Immediate & Long-term Impact of the March 08 Test Market in the Diocese of Phoenix, April 18th, 2008)

A) Focus of Evangelization:

The major areas of success of these commercials did not appear to be a result of increased parish programs or classes, but appears to be more affected by the parish itself acculturating an attitude of evangelization. One in which parishioners are encouraged to share their faith, and the parish staff joyfully proclaims the good news in all they do. Parishes with active outreach to fallen away or non-Catholic's and multiple opportunities for Adult catechesis seemed to receive the most responses. 32 Parishes advertised throughout the bulletin before and after the commercials aired. 28 Parishes included various programs for returning Catholics.

If there is any consistent response from those who have returned it has been "I came because I was invited." **The principal means that people returned to the Church was through an invitation.** Many viewed these commercials as an invitation, and many more active Catholics were willing to invite others as a result of the commercials. In "Evangelii Nuntiandi" Paul VI tells us "**all Christians are called to this witness, and in this way they can be real evangelizers**" and "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers". The testimonials in the commercials and the witness that countless Catholics gave to their faith yielded huge results.

The time the Office of Adult Evangelization spent on supporting evangelization through the Advent Parish Staff Retreat the Receptionist In-Service Luncheon **seemed to have yielded more immediate fruits than did the multitude of Catechetical programs** offered in the online Resources for Returning Catholics. While parishes that did offer "Welcome Home" programs did have moderate success, many fallen-away Catholics did not respond to these, but came back quietly. Many of which considered themselves never "fallen-away" simply less active. For these Catholics who only attended Mass on Christmas & Easter, and other days the programs were not the attraction, or the reason for coming back. **This would indicate that evangelization should be the primary focus for those fallen-away, and that on-going Catechesis would be the means to maintain them and help them grow in their faith once they have returned.**

Those who have fallen away as a result of doctrinal issues also responded to the invite. While many were not able to articulate their issue, they were hesitant to return without an opportunity to have their concern validated and addressed. **For these fallen-away Catholics the moment of evangelization seemed to correlate with catechesis, as the invite came through the teaching and response to their concern.**

*I do not mean to downplay the important role and necessity of ongoing Catechesis for adults, but rather suggest that for most of those whom we know returned it was not strictly a "catechetical moment." **The efforts we placed into supporting parish effort of evangelization seemed to have been more immediately effective** than the efforts we placed into forming Catechetical material and programs. Good catechetical programs will be the means to sustain those that have returned, and encourage an active and mature faith life. Many that we are inviting back need first to be evangelized.

B) Profile of Fallen Away Catholics:

In the research leading up to the creation of Resources for Returning Catholics and the Media Test-Market we found that the data from secular sources such as the Pew Charitable Trust, and religious sources such as CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) were remarkably consistent. (We did not have the benefit studying of the “Religious Landscape in America Survey” released by Pew on Feb 29th until closer to the airing of the commercials.) In addition to these studies, information from major returning Catholic websites was integrated into our study. Here is what we learned.

Group A) The vast majority of fallen-away Catholics have become inactive due to social stresses and not directly due to doctrinal issues. (*Upwards of 90% based on website hits¹*)

Group B) Of those who have fallen away due to doctrinal issues:

i) Marriage issues rank the highest. (*As much as 20% based on website hits, 7% or higher based on email inquiries²*).

ii) Issues of same sex attraction also ranked high. (*About 3% of emails indicated personal issues of same sex attraction, while an addition 2% referred to the Churches teaching on homosexuality³*)

Group C) Of those who articulated doctrinal issues as the reason for leaving, nearly 50% exhibited a fundamental misunderstanding about the churches teaching. (*Of the 180 emails that articulated doctrinal issues, nearly 90 used misquoted or non-existent Church doctrine as their reason*).

Group D) Using PEW Charitable Trust “Religious Landscape in America” it can be assumed that less than 60% of Catholics who leave the Catholic Church eventually join another Christian denomination, and many do not remain affiliated with that denomination.⁴ (*This is inconsistent with the 18% of emails that indicated they had joined a Christian denomination, some of which indicated that they did not attend services at all. The reason for this inconsistency may be that many respondents did not share their current religious affiliation, or that those who have found another faith tradition are less interested in responding to the commercials.*)

Group E) The Sex Abuse Scandal was referred to by nearly 40 percent of individuals who emailed⁵. Dialog with many of these individuals showed they had left the Church for other reasons but referred to the sex abuse by priest as further justification for their leaving. (CARA’s CCP 2003 shows that nearly 85% of fallen away Catholics became inactive before the sex abuse scandal.⁶)

¹ Sites like www.oncecatholic.org and others experienced more web visits in the areas of general inquiry than they did in areas for marriage.

² CatholicsComeHome.org experienced nearly 20% of their web visits in areas of Marriage. Of 600 email inquiries, 42 referred to Marriage issues.

³ Of 600 email inquiries 18 referred to personal issues of same-sex attraction & 12 referred to the Churches teaching on homosexuality in general.

⁴ See CARA “Reflections of Pew’s US Religious Landscape Survey” page 1 &2.

⁵ Of 600 inquiries 240 referred in same way to the Priest sex abuse scandal.

⁶ CARA CCP 2003 as reported in CARA Reflections of Pew’s US Religious Landscape Survey” pg. 3

C) Pastoral Responses to Fallen Away Catholics

Acknowledging that the data is very limited, the information received during the Test-Market from dialog with hundreds of individuals and the testimony of pastors and catechetical leaders illustrates which responses to the above reasons resonated most successfully with the individual.

Group A) The most common response from this group was “I came because I was invited.” This group needs to be engaged by active Catholics who live and share their relationship with Christ and the beauty and richness of their Catholic faith. Many responded to the commercials as the invite, and many others were invited by parishioners. The confessional was also a place of return for many of these fallen-away Catholics. Nearly all pastors in the survey and at several deanery meetings indicated an increase of confessions.

It is important to point out that many in this group did not consider themselves “fallen-away” but less than active. Many had not been to Church in years but still considered themselves as part of a parish. Efforts of outreach to registered but non-active parishioners and ongoing Catechesis seems to be the most effective tools to counter this phenomenon.

Group B) Individuals who fell away from issues of the Churches teaching on Marriage and Homosexuality accounted for some of our longest email dialogs and phone conversations.

Of those in irregular marriages an acknowledgement of God’s love for them and an explanation as to why marriage was so highly regarded in the Church seemed to be a great starting point towards more specific dialog on their situation. Validating the goodness and beauty of marriage as a point of departure responded to what many of them had found or been looking for in a marriage. Use of scripture seemed to receive the most positive responses, as did an explanation of how they could appropriately participate in the Church community as they discerned their readiness for whatever steps might be necessary to attempt a resolution of their current situation. Many expressed deep frustration of not being able to receive Holy Communion, and felt it was a form of Church punishment. Others had been instructed to receive and were seeking clarification. A candid conversation about participation in Holy Communion and dignity of Marriage was often difficult but bore much fruit. Many of those who inquired had been promised quick-fixes in the past, and seemed to respond better to the recognition of the difficulty of their situation, and honest answers. The basic misunderstandings of the annulment process also needed to be addressed.

Of those who had same-sex attractions or referred to the Church’s teaching on homosexuality often felt rejected by the Church, for a decision that they were not culpable for. While the dialogs were difficult, proclaiming the Gospel as “Good News” and assuring them of God’s love and each of our call to holiness and chastity did elicit positive responses. When necessary an apology was offered for any mistreatment or alienation they had felt from the Church that may have assaulted their dignity as a human, care was taken not to grant dignity to their sin, but to who they are as a child of God. Nearly all those who had same-sex attraction were willing to fall into a dialog but often felt judged at any specific reference to sin or our a universal call to holiness. It was clear that email and phone conversations were not the best way to communicate the love Christ and His Church has for them, but the small efforts made to proclaim in love and truth the teachings of Christ and His Church elicited some positive responses.

Group C: The website was a very valuable tool in addressing many of these issues. Often times what was needed was some clarification and other times some apologetics. What was consistently clear was the difficulty people had in making connections with other doctrines. In responding to one issue you would quickly find that there existed a more foundational issue that first

needed to be addressed. It is clear that more comprehensive catechesis that connects the narrative thread of our salvation history with the truths as professed by the Church is necessary.

Group D: Many who were now affiliated with another Christian denomination cited that they were accepted as a remarried person, or as a homosexual. Addressing these individuals was difficult and I am not sure if any approaches succeeded. Sharing with them our desire for their continued conversion and growing in holiness in whatever situation they had established a relationship with Christ earned some positive responses, but no dialog. This sincere desire was coupled with a brief scriptural explanation in support of the Churches teaching on the subject and the promise of prayer.

Group E: Those who indicated the Sex Abuse Scandal in their correspondence with the Diocese fell into two distinct categories. Those, who like many of us, were asking how and why did sex abuse of minors by priest happen, and those who were convinced that sex abuse is systemic in the Church.

The first group responded extremely positively to shared concern and the presentation of the facts. Letting them know that the Church was deeply saddened by this, stands with them and the victims in addition to sharing the good work being done with safe environment training, along with the statistics to help put this social issue into context helped restore many peoples trust.

The second group was approached the same way but was hesitant to believe that the apology and the information offered were sincere. It was helpful to point out the links to the Dallas Charter, and various apologies issued by the Pope and Bishops.

It is clear in either case that the Church has more work to do to restore the trust of many fallen-away and non-Catholics. Recognizing faults and in humility sharing the facts, dispelling myths and defending the Church is necessary as many have been mis-informed about the percentage of Priests involved, and the response of the Church.

3) Recommended Timeline

- 6 Months Before airing:* Meet with Bishop & Presbyteral Council, assign a project coordinator from the Diocese.
- 6-4 Months before airing:* Form an Evangelization Team of Priests, Deacons, Religious and laity who have experience in Adult Faith Formation, Children's Catechesis and Youth Evangelization. Begin forming a catechetical response to the upcoming airing. Inform Pastors and Catechetical Leaders of upcoming CatholicsComeHome.org Commercials
- 4 Months before airing:* Adult Evangelization Team present proposal and show commercials to Deans, necessary Diocesan Offices, and Pastors. Receive input and modify proposal. Bishops letter announcing upcoming campaign. Press Release planned.
- 4- 2 Months before airing:* Meeting with Catechetical Leaders, show commercials and introduce catechetical resources.
- 2 Months before airing:* Parish Staff In-Service, Receptionist In-Service. Other training opportunities.
- 1 Month before airing:* Send DVD's to pastors with Catechetical Resources. Notify Ecumenical Community of commercials airing.
- 2 Weeks before airing:* Reminder email, encouraging Pastors to use DVD at Parish Council meetings, Mass, etc. Prepare parish to evangelize.
- 1 Week before airing:* Promotional materials sent to parishes (posters, letters, flyers etc.

4) Promotion

Sample Bulletin Announcements for CatholicsComeHome.org (These are only samples and parishes are encouraged to modify as necessary)

1) Before or during Lent:

This Lent as we prepare to strengthen our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ we remember our call to share our faith with one another. We remember the words of St. Peter who tells us "to always be ready to give witness to the reason for our hope" (1Pet 3:15). Sharing our love for Jesus Christ and spreading the Good News is a necessary part of our life in Christ. This Lent the Diocese of Phoenix will be part of a Catholics Come Home commercial campaign, and advertisements will air during Lent on all local channels. We encourage each of you to invite those who may not be practicing their faith or may have never encountered Christ to join us for this Holy Season. Our parish will be offering (classes, flyers, etc) _____ for those who are returning home (or want to learn more about their faith) and for those who want to help information will be in the bulletin, or contact _____. We lovingly invite all those who have fallen away, to come home, to find healing, answers and support. *There is always a place for you here.*

Visit CatholicsComeHome.org for more information.

2) Sunday's During Lent

Week 1: Resources for Returning Catholics

This week as we hear the account of Jesus' 40 days in the desert (Matt 4:1-11) we remember what it means to fully depend on God. We celebrate our Catholic faith by entering into the 40 day's of Lent, fasting and praying as Christ did. Christ in His journey models the experience of Israel in the desert, He hungers, He thirsts, He's tempted by the Devil, but He responds with love and patience, modeling for us what it means to trust fully in God's love of His creation. Trusting in this love we can enter into Lent asking God to forgive our sins and strengthen our trust in Him. Read more about forgiveness of sins and the sacrament of reconciliation in Chapter 18 of the US Catholic Catechism for Adults.

Week 2: Resources for Returning Catholics

This week we hear the account of the transfiguration of Jesus (Matt 17:1-9). While on the mountain with our Lord, Peter, James and John saw a glimpse of Jesus' future glory. Peter offered to pitch tents hoping that the moment would never end. However like all glimpses they are only passing moments. We see glimpses of God in an answered prayer, a child's smile, a tender moment, a beautiful sunset. The transfiguration is a glimpse of future glory that will only come after the scandal of the cross. As Catholics we celebrate those glimpses in a very real way when God's grace enters our lives through the sacraments. Read more about God's grace freely given through the Sacraments in Chapter 14 of the US Catholic Catechism for Adults.

Week 3: Resources for Returning Catholics

This week we hear the account of the Women at the Well (John 4:5-42). Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan at the well is a beautiful story about how God reveals Himself to us. Jesus is the "Living Water" and once encountered must be shared with others. The woman at the well models this as she leaves to go "testify" to others who come to "believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified" (vs. 39). Read more about how we come to know Jesus and our call to share the Good News in Chapters 2 & 3 of the US Catholic Catechism for Adults.

Week 4: Resources for Returning Catholics

This week we hear the account of the Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41). The prophet Isaiah tells us that “the people who walk in darkness will see a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). Jesus is “the light of the world” (John 9:5) and wherever He is darkness is dispelled. Everyone suffers from various forms of blindness, whether it is prejudice, ignorance, or indifference we do not see the world as it always is. We don’t always see the poor, the immigrant, the widow, or the unborn as we should. Christ our redeemer heals us as He healed the man born blind, and opens our eyes to His love so that we might respond to the injustices in our world. Read more about how we are invited to open our eyes and respond to the injustices in our world in Chapters 23 & 24 of the US Catholic Catechism for Adults.

Week 5: Resources for Returning Catholics

This week we hear the account the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45). As Lent draws towards its close we reflect on our own death and resurrection. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead physically in his body. Jesus had previously raised the daughter of Jairus (Luke 8:41-42,49-56) and the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17) and in the Old Testament Elijah and Elisha raised people from the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:17-37). But nowhere is there an instance of someone being raised from the dead after four days. This is the crowning miracle of Jesus’ ministry. In fact in John’s Gospel it becomes the main reason leading to Jesus’ death. If Jesus can restore a body that had been in the tomb for four days and has begun to decompose he can certainly mend the brokenness and wounds of our lives. Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even if he dies will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” Jesus asks the same question of us also, “Do you believe this? Do you believe that I am the resurrection and the life? Do you believe that I can mend all the brokenness and wounds of your life? Do you believe that I not only offer you resurrection in the future but also the fullness of life now in the present?” Jesus proclaims that he is both the resurrection and the life. He promises future resurrection but also invites us to share now in the fullness of his life. The resurrection of Lazarus is not just a promise about the future of each of us. It is also an invitation from Jesus to enter into the fullness of his life in the present, now. (Taken from a Homily by Fr. Thomas Lane). Read more about our eternal destiny in Chapter 13 of the US Catholic Catechism for Adults.

Week 6: Resources for Returning Catholics

This week we celebrate Palm Sunday, when Jesus triumphantly entered into Jerusalem and endured the passion for our sake (Matt 26:14-27:66). We hear the account of the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist, when Christ; the sacrificial lamb gives us His Body and Blood so that we might participate in the “new and everlasting covenant.” We enter into God’s word and place ourselves there at His betrayal, at Gethsemane, at Peter’s denial, at the trial, when the crowds called for His crucifixion, when the soldier mocked Him, when He was nailed to the cross, when He took the sins of the world upon Himself and died so that we might live. These are great mysteries that call for deep reflection and prayer. How does the Eucharist strengthen the community? What does Christ’s passion, death and resurrection mean for me? Read more about the Eucharist and the Pascal Mystery in Chapters 17 and 8 of the US Catholic Catechism for Adults.

Sample Mass Announcements for CatholicsComeHome.org Campaign (These are only samples and parishes are encouraged to modify as necessary)

1) Before or during Lent:

This Lent as we prepare to strengthen our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ we remember our call to share our faith with one another. We remember the words of St. Peter who tells us “to always be ready to give witness to the reason for our hope” (1Pet 3:15). Sharing our love for Jesus Christ and spreading the Good News is a necessary part of our life in Christ. This Lent the Diocese of Phoenix will be part of a Catholics Come Home commercial campaign, and advertisements will air during Lent on all local channels. We encourage each of you to invite those who may not be practicing their faith or may have never encountered Christ to join us for this Holy Season. Our parish will be offering (classes, flyers, etc) _____ for those who are returning home (or want to learn more about their faith) and for those who want to help information will be in the bulletin, or contact _____. We lovingly invite all those who have fallen away, to come home, to find healing, answers and support. *There is always a place for you here.*

2) Ash Wednesday:

As we begin Lent we reflect on the many graces God has given us, and remember the important role of our Catholic faith in our daily lives. This Lent the Diocese of Phoenix will be part of a Catholics Come Home commercial campaign, and advertisements will air during Lent on all local channels. We encourage you to share your faith, and reach out to those who need to know that they are welcomed here. More information can be found in the bulletin and we will be offering _____ or contact _____ for more information. . We lovingly invite all those who have fallen away, to come home, to find healing, answers and support. *There is always a place for you here.*

3) If showing the commercial:

As Catholics we are **all** called to build up the body of Christ by living and sharing the Good News with one another. We leave Mass renewed by our Lord in the Eucharist to be living signs to others about God’s goodness and love for each one of us. In recent times many have fallen away from their faith, and we respond by lovingly inviting all those who have fallen away back to the Catholic faith. To help in these efforts the Diocese of Phoenix will be part of a Catholics Come Home commercial campaign, and advertisements will air during Lent on all local channels. Here is a sample of what those who live in the Diocese of Phoenix will see.

(Show Video)

We encourage each of you to live and share your Catholic faith and respond to this campaign by welcoming all those who may return to their faith this Holy Season. In the words of St. Paul “welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you.” Romans 15:7. More information can be found in the bulletin and we will be offering _____ or contact _____ for more information. . We lovingly invite all those who have fallen away, to come home, to find healing, answers and support. *There is always a place for you here.*



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix
Department of Family Catechesis
www.diocesephoenix.org/fc

Returning Catholics Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,
may our hearts and minds be
nourished by your sustaining love,
may our words and actions be
guided by your ever present grace,
That all who seek to know you;
encounter you here,
That all who seek to serve you;
be welcomed to the vineyard
That all who seek to love you;
know that they are loved.
That all who seek to return to
their Catholic faith may
be welcomed and received.

AMEN



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AMEN



Diócesis de Phoenix
Departamento de la Catequesis Familiar
www.diocesephoenix.org/fc

Oración para Católicos que regresan a la Iglesia

Querido Señor:
permite que nuestras mentes y corazones
se alimenten de tu inmenso amor
Que nuestras palabras
y acciones sean guiadas por
tu constante gracia.
Que los que buscan conocerte;
te encuentren aquí.
Que todos los que buscan servirte;
sean bienvenidos en la viñedo.
Que todos los que buscan amarte;
sepan que ya son amados.
Que todos los que buscan volver
a la fe católica
puedan ser recibidos y bienvenidos.

AMEN



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Que todos los que buscan volver
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puedan ser recibidos y bienvenidos.

AMEN

5) Catechetical Materials

- 1) Parish Staff Workshop
- 2) Receptionist In-service
- 3) 5 Key Themes & Recommended Resources
- 4) Catholics Come Home 8 Week Curriculum
- 5) Catholics Come Home 6 Week Curriculum using RENEW Why Catholic?
- 6) Catholics Come Home 8 Week Curriculum for RE Parents
- 7) Catholics Come Home “How to Share your Faith” Session
- 8) Catholics Come Home 6-8 Week USCCA Curriculum
- 9) Catholics Come Home Youth Night on Evangelization



Resources for Returning Catholics

Parish Staff Workshop on Evangelization

Overview: This workshop designed for Parish Staff can be offered as a 3 hour mini-retreat, a day of reflection, or even a working lunch. The interactive style of the workshop gives the Pastor and staff time to respond to the ideas presented and begin the process of planning how to respond to the upcoming campaign. This is just an outline to build onto and to be adapted to meet your Diocesan needs.

Goals: To help Parish Staffs recognize the role each of their positions plays in evangelization and to encourage parish staffs to take steps towards making their parish a place of evangelization for their entire community especially those who are returning to their faith. "Thus it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole." -Evangelii Nuntiandi

Supplies: Bible, Catechism, and any catechetical pamphlets or handouts. Highly recommended to have "[*What the Church Teaches*](#)" [*Evangelization*](#) and other title available from OSV.

Session Format:

- I) Opening Prayer:
 - a. The opening prayer should include the participants. (Use an abbreviated Liturgy of the Hours, or another prayer form from the Catholic tradition can include the group)
 - b. The opening prayer when possible should be lead by someone else other than the session leader.

- II) Scripture Reading
 - a. Matthew 28:19-20
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the name of the Son, and the name of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."
- How does your staff reflect a community that seeks to form disciples? How does your position add to the mission of the Church to preach the Gospel, nourish believers with the Sacraments, and call them to keep the commandments and grow in holiness?
 - b. Mark 16:15
"He said to them, 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature'"
- How does your role in the parish proclaim the Gospel?

- III) Catechesis
 - a. Evangelization
 - i. Definition:
 1. "to evangelize is first of all to bear witness, in a simple and direct way, to God revealed by Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to bear witness that in His Son God has loved the world - that in His

Incarnate Word He has given being to all things and has called men to eternal life.” EV 26

2. What it means” Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation.-USCCB *Go and Make Disciples*, p. 2).
 3. To evangelize we must first be evangelized. We must seek conversion.
- ii. Testimony: Have someone share a time when they shared the faith in word or deed.
 - iii. Conversion within each of us.
 1. How can I grow in holiness?
 2. How can my position and role in the Parish help others encounter Christ?
 - iv. Conversion within the Church.
 1. How does your parish help people encounter Christ?
 2. What are some obstacles your community has in encountering Christ in the everyday?
- b. CCC
- i. Para 905 “For lay people, "this evangelization . . . acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world."
 1. How can we help our community more readily share their faith?
- c. Church Documents
- i. Rd Paragraph 21 of [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#), or have copies for the Staffs. Create some questions to help your parish inventory how they are doing.

IV) Small Faith Sharing (see attached)

V) Discussion / Closing Prayer



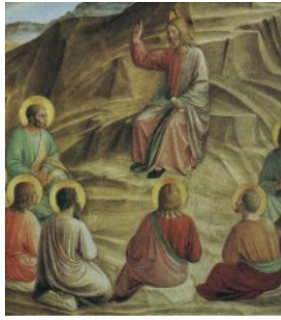
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

Department of Family Catechesis

www.diocesephoenix.org/fc

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“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” –Matthew 28:19



Read the following quotes about evangelization & answer the questions on your own or in a group. Please be prepared to share your answers with others.

1) “it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole. The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself. She is the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated, the community of brotherly love, and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to the new commandment of love.” –Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* para 15

What does it mean to first be evangelized?

Where do you need to grow in your relationship with Christ so that you can better share Him with others?

2) Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation.

–USCCB *Go and Make Disciples*, p. 2

What human situations do I encounter that I could bring the Good News of Jesus to?

Are there certain situations that would be difficult to share Christ with others? What do we do in those cases?



3) “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” –Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* para 41.

What does it mean to be a witness? What responsibilities do I have to be a witness to Christ, as a parent, as a spouse, as an employee, as a citizen, as a parishioner?

4) “Always be willing to give a reason for your hope to anyone who asks” 1 Peter 3:15

*How would I respond to someone who asked the reason for my hope?
Do I trust in God enough to live a hope-filled life?*

5) “You are the light of the world; a city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so your light must shine before others” Matt 5:15

*At baptism we received the light of Christ, and we have been called to share it with others.
How do you see your baptism connected to this call to evangelize?*





Resources for Returning Catholics

Parish Secretary & Receptionist In-Service Luncheon

Goal: To thank those who serve as Parish Secretaries & Receptionists. To support them in their efforts to be the first face of Christ to those who seek help support from the Parish office.

Overview: Aware of the profound role a parish receptionist does play within the parish setting, a special workshop will be provided specifically for parish receptionists. The moment someone phones or enters the parish offices, receptionists play a role in the evangelizing ministry of the Church. Many receptionists are connected even as far as maintaining sacramental registers after the individual has been catechized and has received the Sacraments of Initiation. For these reasons the Office of Adult Evangelization seeks to support and enhance their service to the Church.

Materials:

Gifts: Mugs for each Participant “Coordinator of First Impressions”
Handouts: Reality Reflections, Vision Reflection, Crisis Phone #'s
Prizes: Years of Service
Environment: Round 8 Tops w/ linens and flowers.
AV: Computer, Podium, Lavalier, Screens

Session Outline:

- I) Greeting & Registration
 - Have candy filled “Coordinator of First Impression” mugs and nametags
- II) Welcoming Prayer w/ Bishop
 - Brief reflection on the role of Parish Secretaries and Receptionists
- III) Introduction & Welcome
 - Year of Service Awards
- IV) Food Line
- V) Presentation “First Face of Christ”
 - a. *Reflection on the Colossians 3:12-15*
 - b. Reflection on role of 1st Impressions.
 - c. Reflection on being served and Christ like service.
 - d. Spiritual Inventory based on Colossians 3:12-15
- VI) Presentation on Catholics Come Home / Closing Remarks



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

Department of Family Catechesis
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www.diocesephoenix.org/fc



Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy,
with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
Bear with one another;
forgive whatever grievances you have against one another.
Forgive, as the Lord has forgiven you.
Over all these virtues put on love,
which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.
Christ's peace must reign in your hearts,
since as members of the one body
you have been called to that peace.

-Colossians 3:12-15



Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy,
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you have been called to that peace.

-Colossians 3:12-15

Resources for the Five Key Themes

1) Sacrament of Confession

The Sacrament of Confession is the “the form most expressive of reconciliation with God and with the Church” (CCC 1484) and is therefore the most appropriate to focus on when individuals are seeking to return back to their Catholic faith.

- Recommended Pamphlets:

Our Sunday Visitor "[How to Make a Good Confession](#)"

St. Joseph Communications "How to Make a Good Confession"

- Audio CD's: [Available from Lighthouse Catholic Media \(Español\)](#)

["The Healing Power of Confession"](#) by Scott Hahn

["Confession"](#) by Fr. Larry Richards

[\(also available on VHS or DVD\)](#)

2) Understanding the Mass

Mass is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (LG 11). Helping individuals understand and more fully participate in the rich beauty of the liturgical life of the Church is an ever-present task among all Catholics.

- Recommended Pamphlets:

Our Sunday Visitor "[Getting More out of the Mass](#)"

St. Joseph Communications "Why Does the Catholic Church Teach That?"

- Audio CD's: [Available from Lighthouse Catholic Media \(Español\)](#)

["The Mass Explained"](#) by Fr. Larry Richards

["Understanding the Eucharist"](#) by Scott Hahn

[\(also available on VHS or DVD\)](#)

3) Prayer

“Prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit” (CCC 2565). This living relationship is not with an abstract nor an idea, but rather a personal encounter with God Himself and is a necessary component of all Christian life.

- Recommended Pamphlets:

Our Sunday Visitor ["How to Pray as Catholic"](#)

- Audio CD's: [Available from Lighthouse Catholic Media \(Español\)](#)

["Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality"](#) by Matthew Kelly

4) Marriage & Family Life

“The family is the original cell of social life” (CCC 2207) Therefore marriage is a central consideration when individuals approach the Sacrament of Confession and great care should be taken to help them understand the beliefs of the Church in regards to marriage and family life.

- Recommended Pamphlets:

USCCB ["Married Love and the Gift of Life"](#)

- Audio CD's: [Available from Lighthouse Catholic Media \(Español\)](#)

["The Gift of Human Sexuality"](#) by Fr. Thomas Loya

["Marriage & Annulments"](#) by Bs. Joseph Perry

5) Scripture & Tradition

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ...hold fast to the traditions just as I have handed them on to you” (1 Corinthians 11:1-2). Sacred Scripture and Tradition make up the deposit of faith (DV 10) and individuals should be introduced to the beauty and power of God’s word and the richness of sacred tradition.

- Recommended Pamphlets:

Our Sunday Visitor ["Top Ten Questions Catholics Are Asked"](#)

St. Joseph Communication "Why Does the Church Teach That"

- Audio CD's: [Available from Lighthouse Catholic Media \(Español\)](#)

["Finding the Fullness of Truth"](#) by Steven Ray



Catholics Come Home Sample 8 Week Curriculum

Overview: This sample curriculum would take place the 1st Week of Easter and culminate after Pentecost. Based off the Mystagogia experience of the neophytes inactive Catholics and those who wanted to learn more about their faith would be invited to a series of sessions during the Easter Season.

Goals: To help inactive and returning Catholics encounter the living Christ through evangelization and catechesis.

Recruitment: Starting with Ash Wednesday returning Catholics should be invited to meet a designated person who can lovingly answer their questions and invite them to be active in their Catholic faith. Pulpit, bulletin announcement, along with personal invitations to new people should be included. Those who sought a more formal entrance would be signed up for the 8 week Catholics Come Home Sessions. (see sample form attached).

Opening Dinner: After Easter all those who wish to return to their faith, or those adults who want to learn more about their faith should be invited to an opening meal. Careful thought and planning should go into the dinner, as it can also serve as a recruitment tool. The dinner should include prayer, scripture and an opportunity for catechesis and small faith sharing.

Session Format: Each session should be well executed and lovingly presented. Since people have left the Church or become inactive in their faith for a number of reasons be open to designing sessions that address their specific needs. Certain topics should have been gathered from the entrance conversations and sign-up forms. Parishes are encouraged to give participants a Bible and Adult Catechism when possible.

- I) **Opening Prayer:**
 - a. The opening prayer should include the participants. (Use an abbreviated Liturgy of the Hours, or another prayer form from the Catholic tradition can include the group)
 - b. The opening prayer when possible should be lead by someone else other than the session leader.
- II) **Scripture Reading:**
 - a. A Gospel verse that is easily understood (e.g. Beatitudes, Parable of Sower) and coordinates with the session theme should be joyfully proclaimed.
 - b. Participants should be directed where to find the verse in the scriptures.
- III) **Small Faith Sharing**
 - a. Questions pertinent to the scripture that inspire deep discussion should be developed.
 - b. Active Catholics and volunteer catechists may be placed in each small group to help facilitate dialog.
- VI) **Catechesis**
 - a. An individual from the parish should present the catechetical content of the session. It is helpful to have a different presenter at each session.
 - b. The presenter should consider the “Keys of Catholic Doctrine” when designing their presentation (see attached).
 - c. Time for Questions and Answers
- VII) **Discussion/Closing Prayer**



Catholics Come Home Sign-Up Form

(Whenever possible this form should be filled out by the coordinator in the context of a conversation)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Would you like to share your experience of the Catholic Church?

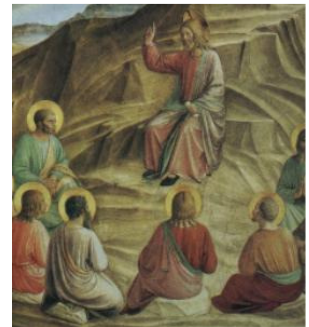
What can we do to help your relationship with Christ grow? (Retreats, Bible Studies, etc)

What questions would you like answered about your Catholic faith?

Have you received all your sacraments? Which ones?

What topics of discussion/teaching interest you?

- _____ Prayer and understanding the Mass
- _____ How to read and understand the Bible
- _____ Mary and the saints
- _____ Sin and Confession
- _____ Holy Communion as Jesus' True Presence
- _____ Heaven, Hell and Purgatory
- _____ The problem of pain and evil in the world
- _____ Divorce and annulments
- _____ Catholic teaching on contraception
- _____ The Holy Spirit and the importance of Confirmation
- _____ OTHER: Please explain...



Goal of Catechesis

The goal of catechesis is knowledge and conversion for insertion into the mystery of Christ with the ultimate goal of communion with Him.

Keys of Catholic Doctrine

1. **Teach the PREMISE:** This is the underlying truth upon which the doctrine is based. It is not necessarily the definition but always God doing something.
2. **Teach the ESSENTIALS:** These are those aspects of a doctrine that cannot be taken for granted when teaching it. ***(Always provide 1 reference to the Catechism of the Catholic Church)**
3. **Teach what is COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD:** There are many misconceptions about what the Church teaches. Most inquirers will come with false understandings of doctrines of the Faith.
4. **Teach the SCRIPTURAL BASIS:** Many people fail to recognize that Catholic doctrine is grounded in Sacred Scripture. ***(Provide at least 1 and no more than 3 Scripture references for each teaching)**
5. **Teach the RELATED DOCTRINES:** The doctrines of the Faith form a certain organic unity. They are not independent. Often, the teaching of a related doctrine will reveal what was previously hidden.





Resources for Returning Catholics

RENEW Sample Curriculum using



Overview: This sample curriculum would take place during Lent using the RENEW Why Catholic? Book # 1 “What We Believe.” Each session is fully developed, including prayer, scripture, catechism quotes, questions for sharing and reflection. Several parishes throughout the Diocese are currently participating in the Why Catholic? Program. It includes team training, small group leader development, days of parish renewal and retreats. For more information on the entire program or simply to order books for this use please visit www.renewintl.org or call the Office of Adult Evangelization (602) 354-2321.

Goals: To encourage RE parents to dive into their faith in the context of small faith sharing groups. That they may pray, learn, and reflect on the teaching of the Church in light of their responsibility as primary educator.

Sessions:

Session 1: Desire for God (pgs. 1-5)

Session 2: God’s Revelation: Tradition & Scripture (pgs. 6-11)

Session 3: Faith: I Believe, We Believe (pgs. 12-17)

Session 4: The Trinity (pgs. 18-23)

Session 5: The Mystery of Creation (pgs. 24-28)

Session 6: The Incarnation (pgs. 29-33)

Other Sessions in Book #1:

The Public Life of Jesus

The Paschal Mystery

The Holy Spirit and the Church

One Church with Diverse Roles

Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church

We Believe in Life Everlasting





Resources for Returning Catholics

Sample 8 Week RE Curriculum

Overview: This sample curriculum would be used for Parents of RE Children and other adults who want to learn more about their faith.

Goals: To help Catholics learn more about their faith and how to make it an active and conscious part of their lives.

Session Format: Each session should be well executed and lovingly presented. Sessions should be formed by the team following the outline below or something similar.

- I) Opening Prayer:
 - a. The opening prayer should include the participants. (Use an abbreviated Liturgy of the Hours, or another prayer form from the Catholic tradition can include the group)
 - b. The opening prayer when possible should be lead by someone else other than the session leader.
- II) Scripture Reading:
 - c. A Gospel verse that is easily understood (e.g. Beatitudes, Parable of Sower) and coordinates with the session theme should be joyfully proclaimed.
 - d. Participants should be directed where to find the verse in the scriptures.
- III) Small Faith Sharing
 - e. Questions pertinent to the scripture that inspire deep discussion should be developed.
 - f. Active Catholics and volunteer catechists may be placed in each small group to help facilitate dialog.
- IV) Catechesis
 - g. An individual from the parish should present the catechetical content of the session. It is helpful to have a different presenter at each session.
 - h. The presenter should consider the “Keys of Catholic Doctrine” when designing their presentation (see attached).
 - i. Time for Questions and Answers
- V) Discussion/Closing Prayer

Some topics and quick references to help form your sessions

Prayer in the Catholic Tradition *Scripture:* Mt: 6:9-13, Mk 11:24 *Catechism:* 2559-2567, 2607-2619, 2761

Other Resources: RENEW Why Catholic Book #4, OSV Pamphlet “How to Pray as a Catholic,”

Understanding the Mass *Scripture:* Mt: 26:26-30, John 6:34-59, Luke 24:13-35, 1 Cor 11:23-34

Catechism: 1406-1419 *Other Resources:* RENEW Why Catholic Book #3, OSV Pamphlet “How to Get more out of the Mass”

How to read and understand the Bible *Scripture:* Luke 1:1-4, Matt 5:17-20, Deut 8:3, 2 Tim 3:16

Catechism: 134-141 *Other Resources:* Ascension Press “The Great Adventure” Series, OSV Pamphlet “The Bible & You”

Mary and the saints *Scripture:* Gen 3:15, Luke 1:26-56, Luke 2:19, John 2:1-11, John 19:26-27,

Catechism: 148, 149, 721-726, 2673-2677, saints 946-953, 2683 *Other Resources:* www.newadvent.org (cf saints)

Sin and Confession *Scripture:* Matthew 16:15-19, John 20:21-23, James 5:14-15.

Catechism: 1846-1869, 1456, 1485-1496 *Other Resources:* OSV Pamphlet “How to Make a Good Confession”

Heaven, Hell and Purgatory *Scripture:* John 3:16, John 14:2-7, 2 Pet 3:9, 1 Cor 3:15, 1 Pet 1:7, 1 Cor 15,

Catechism: 1051-1060, 1030, 1033, *Other Resources:* www.newadvent.org (cf eschatology), OSV Pamphlets

Marriage & Family Life *Scripture:* Gen 2:18-25, Matt 19:1-15, Eph 5:21-33

Catechism: 1659-1666, 2247-2257, *Other Resources:* www.diocesephoenix.org/mfurl/jp2.html, OSV Pamphlets

The Dignity of Human Life *Scripture:* Gen 1:26-28, Matt 19:13-15, Matt 6:25-34, Matt 10:29-31

Catechism: 2318-2330, 2270 *Other Resources:* www.diocesephoenix.org/mfurl/





Resources for Returning Catholics

How to Share your Faith Sample Session

Overview: This sample session is designed to encourage Catholics to evangelize, to share their faith in a loving and meaningful way. “Thus it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole.” -Evangelii Nuntiandi

Goals: To help Catholics recognize their call to share the faith, and some principles and concrete methods to evangelize.

Supplies: Bible, Catechism, and any catechetical pamphlets or handouts. Highly recommended to have [*“What the Church Teaches” Evangelization*](#) and other title available from OSV.

Session Format:

- I) Opening Prayer:
 - a. The opening prayer should include the participants. (Use an abbreviated Liturgy of the Hours, or another prayer form from the Catholic tradition can include the group)
 - b. The opening prayer when possible should be lead by someone else other than the session leader.

- II) Scripture Reading
 - a. Matthew 28:19-20
“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the name of the Son, and the name of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.
 - b. Mark 16:15
“He said to them, ‘Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature’”

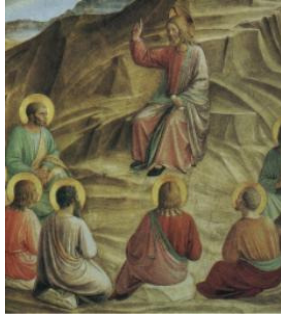
- III) Catechesis
 - c. Evangelization
 - i. Definition:
 1. “to evangelize is first of all to bear witness, in a simple and direct way, to God revealed by Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to bear witness that in His Son God has loved the world - that in His Incarnate Word He has given being to all things and has called men to eternal life.” EV 26
 2. What it means” Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation.-USCCB *Go and Make Disciples*, p. 2).
 - ii. Testimony: Have someone share a time when they shared the faith in word or deed.
 - d. CCC
 - iii. Para 905 “For lay people, “this evangelization . . . acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world.”
 - e. Church Documents
 - iv. Rd Paragraph 21 of [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#), use the questions to as a large group discussion.

- IV) Small Faith Sharing (see attached)

- V) Discussion/Closing Prayer



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” –Matthew 28:19



Read the following quotes about evangelization & answer the questions on your own or in a group. Please be prepared to share your answers with others.

1) “it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole. The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself. She is the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated, the community of brotherly love, and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to the new commandment of love.” -Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* para 15

What does it mean to first be evangelized?

Where do you need to grow in your relationship with Christ so that you can better share Him with others?

2) Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation.

-USCCB *Go and Make Disciples*, p. 2

What human situations do I encounter that I could bring the Good News of Jesus to?

Are there certain situations that would be difficult to share Christ with others? What do we do in those cases?



3) “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” –Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* para 41.

What does it mean to be a witness? What responsibilities do I have to be a witness to Christ, as a parent, as a spouse, as an employee, as a citizen, as a parishioner?

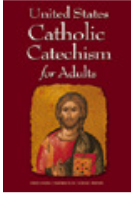
4) “Always be willing to give a reason for your hope to anyone who asks” 1 Peter 3:15

*How would I respond to someone who asked the reason for my hope?
Do I trust in God enough to live a hope-filled life?*

5) “You are the light of the world; a city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so your light must shine before others” Matt 5:15

*At baptism we received the light of Christ, and we have been called to share it with others.
How do you see your baptism connected to this call to evangelize?*





Resources for Returning Catholics

Catholics Come Home

Sample 6-8 Week Curriculum w/ the USCCA

Overview: This sample curriculum would take place during the first weeks of Easter and culminate around Pentecost. Based off the Mystagogia experience of the neophytes inactive Catholics and those who wanted to learn more about their faith would be invited to a series of sessions during the Easter Season.

Goals: To help inactive and returning Catholics encounter the living Christ through evangelization and catechesis.

Recruitment: Starting during Lent, returning Catholics should be invited to meet a designated person who can lovingly answer their questions and invite them to be active in their Catholic faith. Pulpit, bulletin announcement, along with personal invitations to new people should be included. Those who sought a more formal entrance would be signed up for the 8 week Catholics Come Home Sessions. (see sample form attached).

Opening Dinner: After Easter all those who wish to return to their faith, or those adults who want to learn more about their faith should be invited to an opening meal. Careful thought and planning should go into the dinner, as it can also serve as a recruitment tool. The dinner should include prayer, scripture and an opportunity for catechesis and small faith sharing.

Session Format: Using the US Catholic Catechism for Adults, each session should be well executed and lovingly presented. 6-8 Chapters should be chosen that reflect the needs of the group (recommendations below). Since people have left the Church or become inactive in their faith for a number of reasons be open to designing sessions that address their specific needs. Certain topics should have been gathered from the entrance conversations and sign-up forms. Parishes are encouraged to give participants a Bible and Adult Catechism when possible.

- I) **Opening Prayer:**
 - a. The opening prayer should include the participants. (Use an abbreviated Liturgy of the Hours, or another prayer form from the Catholic tradition can include the group)
 - b. The opening prayer when possible should be lead by someone else other than the session leader.
- II) **Scripture Reading:**
 - a. A Gospel verse that is easily understood (e.g. Beatitudes, Parable of Sower) and coordinates with the session theme should be joyfully proclaimed.
 - b. Participants should be directed where to find the verse in the scriptures.
- III) **Proclamation of Story “Lesson of Faith”**
 - a. Proclaim the “Lesson of Faith” from the first section of the Chapter in the US Catholic Catechism for Adults
- IV) **Proclaim the “Teaching: It’s Foundations & Application”**
 - a. Make copies of the “Teaching: It’s Foundations & Application” Section w/ the Sidebars of the USCCA Chapter you are using for each participant
- V) **Small Faith Sharing of “Discussion Questions”**
 - a. Separate into small groups and Reflect on Discussion Questions & “The Teaching in Relation to Culture”
 - b. Active Catholics and volunteer catechists may be placed in each small group to help facilitate dialog.
- VI) **Large Group Discussion**
 - a. Continue the dialog on the Discussion Questions in the large group
 - b. The leader should be prepared to help elaborate on the teaching and respond to any sharing that needs help or correction.
 - c. Time for Questions and Answers
- VII) **Discussion/Closing Prayer**
 - a. Use the Meditation & Prayer from the USCCA Chapter that you are using.



Catholics Come Home Sign-Up Form

(Whenever possible this form should be filled out by the coordinator in the context of a conversation)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Would you like to share your experience of the Catholic Church?

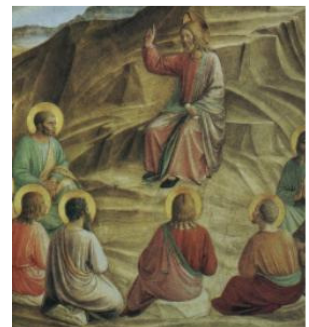
What can we do to help your relationship with Christ grow? (Retreats, Bible Studies, etc)

What questions would you like answered about your Catholic faith?

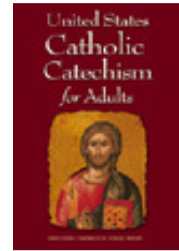
Have you received all your sacraments? Which ones?

What topics of discussion/teaching interest you?

- _____ Prayer and understanding the Mass
- _____ How to read and understand the Bible
- _____ Mary and the saints
- _____ Sin and Confession
- _____ Holy Communion as Jesus' True Presence
- _____ Heaven, Hell and Purgatory
- _____ The problem of pain and evil in the world
- _____ Divorce and annulments
- _____ Catholic teaching on contraception
- _____ The Holy Spirit and the importance of Confirmation
- _____ OTHER: Please explain...



Recommended Chapters from the USCCA



Session # 1: Chapter 1 My Soul Longs for You, O God

- I) Opening Prayer:
- II) Scripture Reading: Luke 12:22-32
- III) Proclamation of Story "Lesson of Faith" (pgs.1-2)
- IV) Proclaim the "Teaching: It's Foundations & Application" (pgs. 3-6)
- V) Small Faith Sharing of "Discussion Questions" (pgs. 6-7)
- VI) Large Group Discussion (pgs. 7-8)
- VII) Closing Prayer (pgs. 8-9)

Session # 2: Chapter 6 Man & Women in the Beginning

- I) Opening Prayer:
- II) Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15-25
- III) Proclamation of Story "Lesson of Faith" (pgs. 65-67)
- IV) Proclaim the "Teaching: It's Foundations & Application" (pgs. 67-70)
- V) Small Faith Sharing of "Discussion Questions" (pgs. 71-73)
- VI) Large Group Discussion (pgs. 73-74)
- VII) Closing Prayer (pgs. 74-75)

Session # 3: Chapter 8 The Saving Death & Resurrection of Christ

- I) Opening Prayer:
- II) Scripture Reading: John 3:10-17
- III) Proclamation of Story "Lesson of Faith" (pgs. 89-90)
- IV) Proclaim the "Teaching: It's Foundations & Application" (pgs. 91-97)
- V) Small Faith Sharing of "Discussion Questions" (pgs. 97-98)
- VI) Large Group Discussion (pgs. 98-99)
- VII) Closing Prayer (pgs. 99-100)

Session # 4: Chapter 14 The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ

- I) Opening Prayer:
- II) Scripture Reading: Romans 8:18-39
- III) Proclamation of Story "Lesson of Faith" (pgs. 165-166)
- IV) Proclaim the "Teaching: It's Foundations & Application" (pgs. 167-174)
- V) Small Faith Sharing of "Discussion Questions" (pgs. 175-177)
- VI) Large Group Discussion (pgs. 176-178)
- VII) Closing Prayer (pgs. 178-179)

Session # 5: Chapter 23 Life in Christ – Part 1

- I) Opening Prayer:
- II) Scripture Reading: John 10:10
- III) Proclamation of Story "Lesson of Faith" (pgs. 307-309)
- IV) Proclaim the "Teaching: It's Foundations & Application" (pgs. 309-317)
- V) Small Faith Sharing of "Discussion Questions" (pgs. 318-320)
- VI) Large Group Discussion (pg. 321)
- VII) Closing Prayer

Session # 6: Chapter 36 Jesus Taught us to Pray

- I) Opening Prayer:
- II) Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:9-15
- III) Proclamation of Story "Lesson of Faith" (pgs. 481-483)
- IV) Proclaim the "Teaching: It's Foundations & Application" (pgs. 483-490)
- V) Small Faith Sharing of "Discussion Questions" (pgs. 490-492)
- VI) Large Group Discussion (pgs. 492-494)
- VII) Closing Prayer (pgs. 494-495)

Other Recommended Chapters include 10, 17, 18, 21, 35



Resources for Returning Catholics

Sample Youth Ministry Session on Evangelization

Overview: This sample session is designed for a Junior High or High School youth group and can be used in connection with your parish efforts for welcoming returning Catholics.

Goals: To help teens understand the importance of evangelization & the impact that they have on others by living and sharing their faith.

Session Format:

I) Gather:

- 1) Prayer (Student lead when possible)
- 2) Introduction to the session
 - a. Explain the objectives of the session
 - b. Explain the Catholic understanding of evangelization
- 3) Video Clip(s)
 - a. The Mission: When possible using the entrance sequence (the first 3 minutes) of the “The Mission” is a great intro to this session.
 - b. CatholicsComeHome.org Commercial

II) Break: Island Activity

- 1) Small Missionary Teams of 4-6
- 2) Receive activity sheets & supplies (see attached)
- 3) Break into groups and spend 40 minutes devising a plan.
 - Things to consider
 - Where do you land?
 - Which tribe do you contact first?
 - What buildings do you build first? Where?
 - Other things you want to do to help you accomplish your goal.

III) Proclaim:

- 1) All groups share their plan of evangelization.
 - a. Group leaders to help students stay on task.
 - b. MC to help lead the group and relate all efforts back to evangelization.

IV) Send:

- I) Evangelizing at home or school
 - a. Invite teens to share stories of when they evangelized.
 - b. Make connections between the “Island Activity” and the real world.

CRS Missionary Services
1200 N. San Santiago Ln.
City of San Santiago
Province 146
Phillippines 00-305679

TO: Missionary Teams
RE: Missionization of Island
FROM: Cardinal Sepe, Sec. Pont. Cou. Evangelization of Peoples

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

A unique opportunity has arisen on the coast of Sri-Lanka. In the aftermath of the Tsunamis, a new island has been located. This small island is less than 4 square miles but has an estimated 1200 inhabitants. Discussions with the local fisherman have yielded much information. The small island was not badly damaged by the tsunami, but still needs serious help their water and food supply, as well as local commerce has diminished. The island is inhabited by 3 tribes as follows.

-The "Mandau'i's" have been contacted and speak limited English as well as their indigenous language, they are eager to work with you and have expressed deep interest in Jesus and the Christian faith.

-The "Draj'i'ana" have been contacted and are very indifferent about your presence and your missionization efforts. They do not speak English.

-The "Meherada's" have not been contacted and are feared to be very hostile. Past missionary efforts have failed with this tribe and extreme caution is encouraged. They do not speak English.

Attached to this letter is a topographical map of the island. We are prepared to send your team with any necessary supplies in the hopes that you will accomplish the following.

- Create a Catholic Christian presence on the Island, including a chapel & an intertribal school.
- Build a safe harbor for future missionization & relief efforts.
- Build a clinic/hospital for Island use.
- Create an intertribal economy.
- Create mechanisms to train an adult workforce.

I send you with my Blessings and ask that you create a detailed plan for the missionization & evangelization of this island. Other ministries and aid programs are ready to aid you in this endeavor.

In His Service,

Cardinal Philipé Sepe
Secretariat of the Pontifical Council
Of Evangelization of Peoples

CRS Servicios Misioneros
1200 N San Santiago Ln.
Ciudad de San Santiago
Provincia 146
Filipinas 00-305679
(480) 7032-181~987

Para: Grupos de Misionización
Misionización de Isla
De: Cardinal Sepe, Sec. Pont. Cou. Evangelización de la Gente

Re:

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Una oportunidad (mica ha surgido cerca de la costa de Sri-Lanka. Después del Tsunami, una nueva isla ha sido localizada. Esta pequeña isla es menor de 4 millas cuadradas, pero tiene mas de 1,200 habitantes. Hablando con los pescadores hemos aprendido que esta pequeña isla no fue destruida por el Tsunami, pero necesita ayuda con agua, comida, y su economía. Tres grupos viven en esta isla.

-Los "Mandau'i'g" fueron contactados y hablan un poco de Español, así como el dialecto indígena de su isla, están listos para trabajar con ustedes y han expresado profundo interés en Jesús y la fe Cristiana.

-Los "Draj'i'ana" han sido contactados y se mostraron indiferente hacia ustedes y su trabajo misionero. No hablan español.

-Los "Meherada's" no han sido contactados y se teme que sean muy hostiles. Misioneros han muerto en el pasado. No hablan español.

Con esta carta encontraran un mapa topográfico de la isla. Estamos preparados para enviar a su grupo con el equipo necesario con la esperanza de que hacen los objetivos siguientes.

-Crear una presencia Cristiana Católica en la Isla, incluyendo una capilla y una escuela para todos los grupos de la isla.

-Construir una bahía segura para futura migionización y ayuda. -Construir una clinica/hospital para el uso de la isla. -Crear una economía buena.

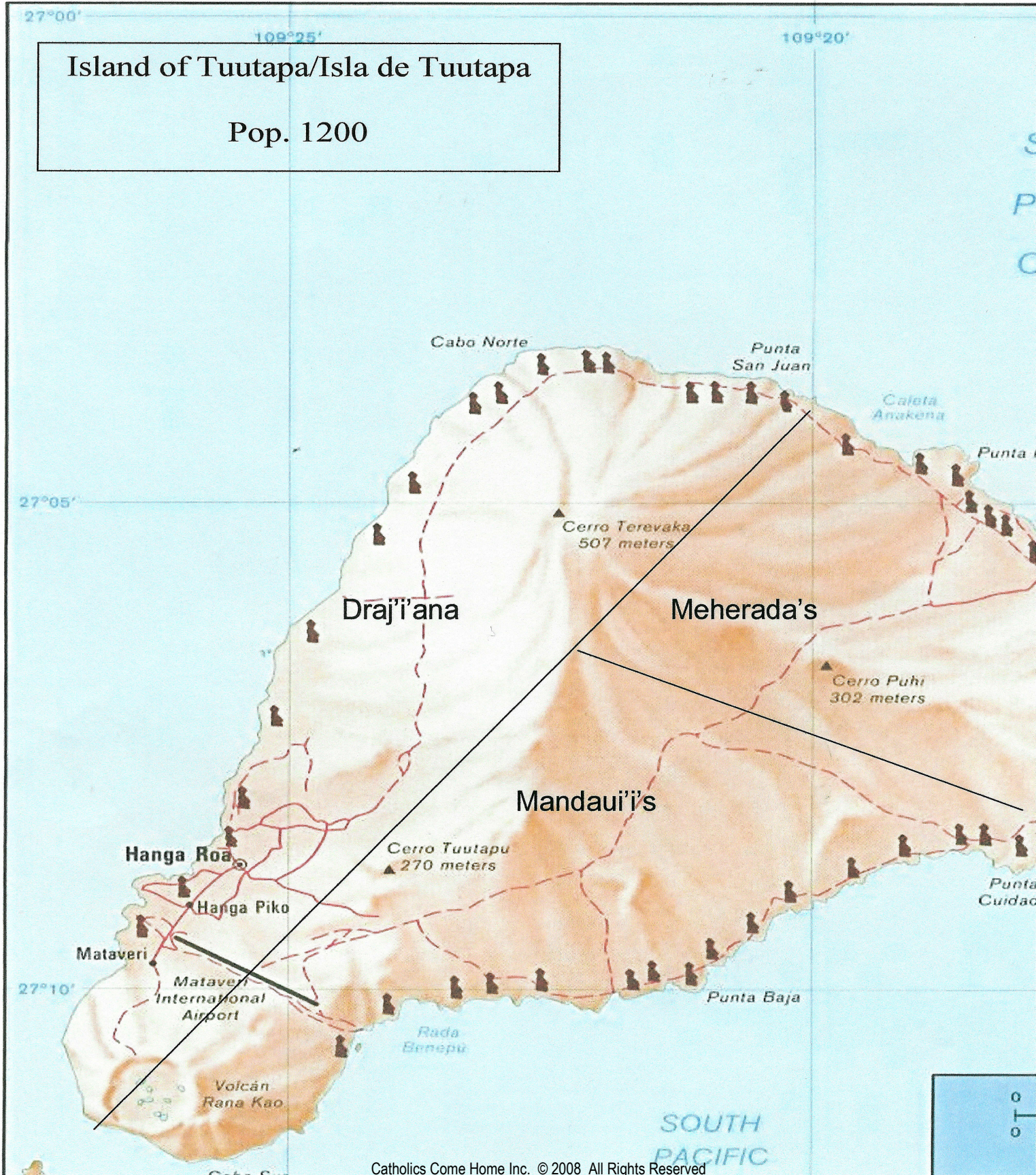
-Crear oportunidades para entrenar adultos para trabajar.

Les envié mis bendiciones y les pido que creen un detallado plan para la misionización y evangelización de esta isla. Otros ministerios y programas están listos para ayudarles en esta misión.

En Su Servicio,

Cardinal Philippe Sepe Secretario del Concilio Pontifical De Evangelización de la Gente

Island of Tuutapa/Isla de Tuutapa
Pop. 1200



6) Assessment Materials



This Lent over 25,000 people responded to the CatholicsComeHome.org TV Commercials!!

If you would like to support the development and airing of more commercials locally and throughout the US please visit:

CatholicsComeHome.org/phoenix

Or write to

**Catholics Come Home
560 W. Crossville Road Suite 101,
Roswell, GA 30075**

God bless you for caring!

Thank you



This Lent over 25,000 people responded to the

CatholicsComeHome.org TV

Commercials!! We would love to hear from you. To participate in an online survey to help us assess the impact of this campaign please visit:

CatholicsComeHome.org/phoenix

Or write to

**Catholics Come Home
560 W. Crossville Road Suite 101,
Roswell, GA 30075**

God bless you for caring!

Thank you



Did you see the commercials? We need your help to share this loving message with others.

Please consider supporting the ongoing efforts of CatholicsComeHome.org to develop and air more commercials that invite people to think about their relationship with Christ. please visit

CatholicsComeHome.org/phoenix

Or write to

**Catholics Come Home
560 W. Crossville Road Suite
101,**

Roswell, GA 30075

God bless you for caring!

Thank you



This Lent the Diocese of _____ was a test-market for CatholicsComeHome.org. We are currently assessing the impact of the commercials. Please take a few moments and answer the following questions.



Parish: _____

I have seen the commercials on TV. Yes No About How Many Times _____

I have seen the commercials displayed at Mass or at a parish meeting. Yes No

In your opinion how much impact will the commercials have? A lot Some None

Did you notice an increase in Mass attendance since the commercials aired (March 3rd)?
 A lot Some None

Any Comments you would like to share?

(Optional)

We would like to continue airing these inspiring Catholic television messages in your community, and on national TV networks! Will you please help?

You can count on me to help! Please contact me. (Your information will be kept confidential)

Name (print): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____ Email: _____

**Please drop in collection basket at Mass, or mail to:
Catholics Come Home, 560 W. Crossville Road Suite 101, Roswell, GA 30075 God bless you!**

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