



Invite One Back

The importance of your invitation

Do you remember the last time you were invited somewhere? It may have been to a wedding, for lunch, or even for a cup of coffee. Invitations say something: “You are important to me”; “It would good to hear how you’re doing”; “I enjoy your company.”

Invitations are uniquely powerful. An invitation is not forceful nor aggressive, yet, by nature, it expects a response. Jesus used invitations all the time! He invited people to worship and glorify God; He invited people to follow Him; He invited people to dine with Him; and He invited people to repent and believe in the Gospel. We should do the same today.

Though there are many reasons why Catholics stop attending Mass, it is safe to assume the majority will only come back if personally invited. No matter where individuals are or what decisions they have made, the Catholic Church remains a spiritual home and community of people in need of God’s love and mercy. An invitation reminds them that they belong within our community and that their presence is missing.

If even one person is missing from our parish, their absence

matters! In the words of the great Christian writer, C.S. Lewis: “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.” Every person we have encountered has an eternal destiny. Every person who has ever been a parishioner at our church is a person with an immortal soul and, therefore, an infinite amount of value. Whether our parish is missing just a single person, or five people, or five hundred people, we are incomplete without one another.

As we strive to do our part during this time when God is pouring out His grace for the Eucharistic Revival, we need to not only guide people to meet Jesus, to deeper encounters with the living Christ, veiled in the Eucharist, but we also need to bring people into deeper encounters with the parish community – the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. We need to bring people back into our parishes. We need to remind people that they belong to something bigger than all of us. Our parish families, our Eucharistic communities, need each of these individual members. Every single parishioner is a vital organ to their parish because every single person is a vital organ to the

Mystical Body of Christ at large. Every single one of us has a seat at the table of our Lord. It’s difficult to have Eucharistic Revival in our parishes if some of our members are missing!

For this reason, we are asking that each parish’s invitation be covered with prayer. This campaign is not simply about inviting people back but praying people back into the arms of the Church, and the only way that we can be successful in these invitations is by allowing God to work in and through our invitations. Please commit to praying the following pray:

God our Father, You never cease to seek out Your children—the lonely, the frightened, the hurt, and the lost. We pray for all our parishioners who have been missing from our parish community and Eucharistic celebrations.

Through the intercession of Mary, please pave the way for conversations and invitations that welcome them back to the Catholic Church and our parish community. We trust in Your love and mercy for every one of Your children. Amen.

