

Invite One Back Initiative Overview



Please pray this prayer for those
that left the parish.

Hail Mary,

full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of
thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us
sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and
Star of the New Evangelization,

Pray for us.

Saint Carlo Acutis,

Pray for us.





Why Invite One Back?

- 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.





What is the Invite One Back Initiative?

- We are encouraged to personally invite fellow Catholics who have fallen away for whatever reason to return to the parish and especially Sunday Mass.
- This is a call to embrace fully our roles as missionary disciples of Christ.

Invite
— *One Back* —
Initiative



You are needed.

- There is a significant number of people who believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist but are not physically encountering Him – or their fellow parishioners.
- Jesus said, “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost” Matthew 18:12-14





First, the pastor and group of parish leaders need to:

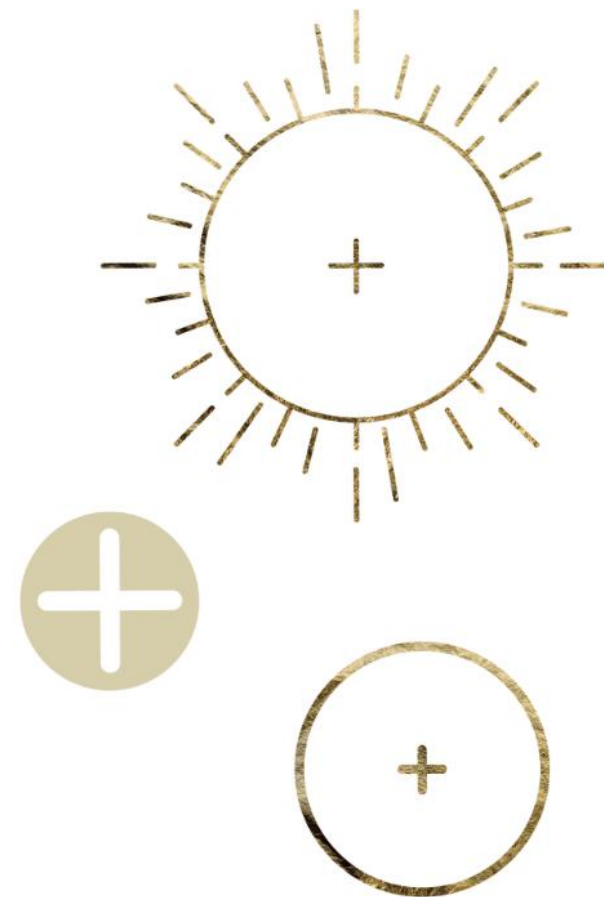
- Discern who exactly to reach out to
- Discern how best to individually contact them
- Develop a plan to contact each one of them





Who exactly are we inviting?

- Who haven't you seen in a while?
- Who used to be a part of your parish?
- Who is still activating your livestreams?
- Look through your parish directory with your team.
- Ask yourself and your fellow parishioners,
"Who are we missing?"





We are seeking to identify those not participating in the parish and invite them back!

- This isn't just to get people back in our pews.
- This is to lead people into an encounter with Jesus Christ.
- When one member of the body suffers, the entire body suffers.
- Perhaps you start small and focus on one small group of people at a time.





Second, cover this campaign in prayer!

- Get the whole parish involved!
- As an intention at a Sunday Mass
- As a petition during the Intercessions of the Faithful
- In your parish's Rosary group(s)
- In bulletin announcements
- In your Men's and Women's Ministries
- Put together a prayer team specifically for this campaign.





Your invitations are powerful.

- Invitations let people know they are known and remembered.
- Jesus consistently invited people.
- It is our prayer and desire to bring people into deeper encounters with Jesus Christ and the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church.





Letters

- One of the best ways to reach those who have fallen away is through a letter.
- We recommend physical mail over email.
- It can be written or typed.
- Pre-written templates are available at diolc.org/evangelization





Pew Card

- The parish family needs to notice who is missing. Many people yearn to become an active member again of our parish community.
- Inviting people back includes identifying those who no longer participate in parish life.
- On the pew card, parishioners are asked: Do you know someone who has fallen away and could benefit from someone reaching out to them? Please help us by filling out any information you know about a very important missing parishioner (Missing VIP).





Phone Calls

- With your pastor's discernment, create a group that will call parishioners.
- This is the most time-consuming option but also the most personal.
- Sample scripts can be located at diolc.org/evangelization





A few notes

- Do tweak these materials as you see most appropriate for your parishioners.
- Keep voicemails short and avoid monologues.
- Project familiarity, and if you do know the person, then say things like “how is your family?”
- Assume the best – make sure they feel listened to.
- Be specific in what you're inviting them to – have a plan! (Such as a parish brunch, a new Bible Study, etc.)
- Keep in touch: i.e., appoint a parish sponsor for each person, who invites them to Mass and attends with them.



Prayer for Guidance

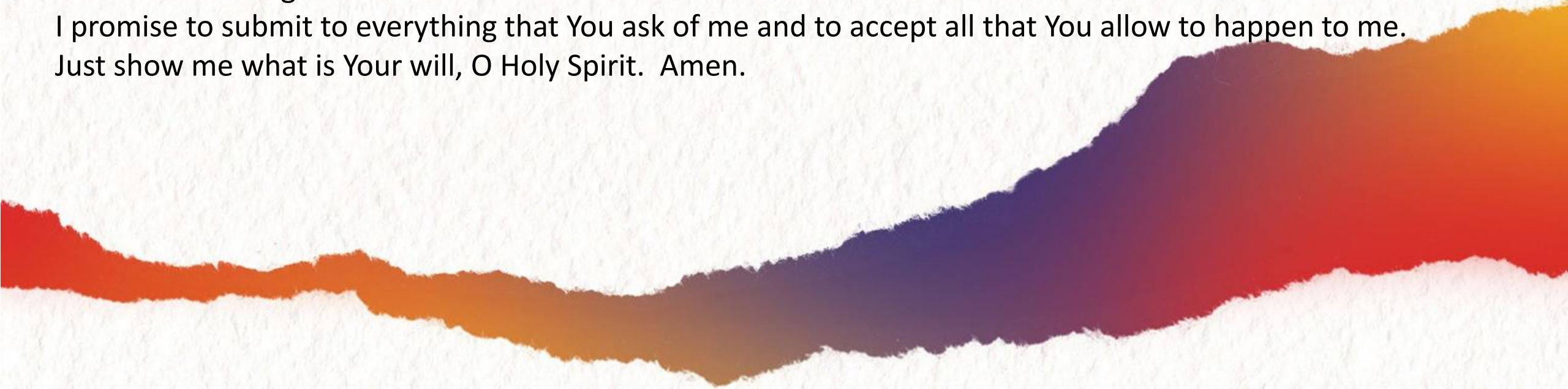
Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, Beloved of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen and console me.

Tell me what I ought to do and command me to do it.

I promise to submit to everything that You ask of me and to accept all that You allow to happen to me.

Just show me what is Your will, O Holy Spirit. Amen.

A decorative wavy line with a color gradient from red to orange to purple, spanning the width of the page and positioned below the prayer text.



THAT'S IT!

- **THANK YOU** for investing your time, effort, and prayer in seeking to bring people back to the parish community.
- **For Invite One Back resources, visit: diolc.org/evangelization**
- **Questions? Contact the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization
608-791-2658**

Slides adapted by

Office for Catechesis & Evangelization
from the work of:

Kris Frank

VP of Growth & Marketing
National Eucharistic Congress, Inc.

Tanner Kalina

Mission Outreach Manager
National Eucharistic Congress, Inc.