

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME.**

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS LEFT THE CHURCH?**

Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about those loved ones, but we don't know how to help them, obviously, most of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home?

As baptised, practicing Catholics, we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters. First, we need to pray for them.

Next, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. Many mistakenly think they are excommunicated and are not welcome to return for a variety of reasons. Many non-practicing Catholics carry with them a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church and are afraid of approaching the church for fear of being rejected.

You can make a tremendous difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and would like for them to come back home to our Church family.

Here at Parish of the Resurrection we are going to start the Programme "Inviting Catholics Home" - to invite non-practicing Catholics to return to the Church again.

The Parish needs to set up a team and review materials and books available and even check internet sites. We have never done this before but with your help and the Holy Spirit to guide us we can make it work.

Meanwhile write the names of lapsed Catholics on the list on the right hand side and let us have these names as soon as possible for house prayers and Church based prayers. Keep a duplicate of list at home for prayer and return one to us.

If you feel God is calling you to the Ministry of 'Inviting Catholics Home' please complete the section below and return it with your Prayer List.

Thank you one and all. - Fr David

**TEAR-OFF SECTION:**

Yes, I am prepared to be on the Team for "Inviting Catholic's Home."

Name:.....

Address:.....

Tel. No:..... Cell:.....

**INVITING CATHOLICS HOME PROGRAMME**

**THE FIRST STEP**

1. The Congregation writes the names of all the people they know who no longer practice their Catholic Faith.
2. Collect all the sheets each weekend and place it in a basket or container before the altar.
3. At the end of the Prayers for the Faithful, the congregation prays the prayer together. (Copies of the prayer could be placed in the Hymn Book).
4. Each week count the number of names on the list and inform the Parish as the number of people for whom they are praying.
5. Give Parishioners copies of the Prayer and encourage them to pray it each day at home. (Bookmarks of the Prayer could be made for Parishioners to take home).

Below is an example of the Sheet for the Names.

**INVITING CATHOLICS HOME PROGRAMME**

Names of Catholics I know of who no longer practice their Faith.

If you don't know their full names, write down what you do know.

(EG. Mike and Family). This list includes Catholics from all over, whether in South Africa or Overseas.

Names	Number
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CATHOLICS</b>	