

HELP YOUR PARISH

share the perfect gift

THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

ENCOUNTERING THE PERIPHERIES OF PARISH LIFE

When Christ tells us to “*Go make disciples of all nations.*” he implores us to welcome those new to our parish boundaries and reach out to those who have no faith.

INSIDE THE PARISH:

Go In then Out. Provide intentional and personal opportunities for ministry leaders to go deeper in their faith.

Ask for an Ask. Ask parish ministry leaders, catechists, and schoolteachers to personally ask and invite other adults they know or parents of young people to a particular parish gathering or event.

Give Witness. Ask a parishioner to speak from their personal experience about the value of a parish ministry and their relationship with Jesus as a way of encouraging parishioners to get more involved.

ON THE EDGES:

Re-engage Parish Touchpoints (RCIA, marriage prep, newly registered). Personally invite those who were involved in the last two years to re-engage in the parish.

Teach Basics. Many adults don’t know about the Jesse Tree or don’t own advent candles. Make resources and supplies available and teach adults how to form new family faith traditions.

Form Friendships. Adults are more likely to stay involved in the parish when they have a personal connection. Facilitate personal friendships in everything you do: missions, ministries, small groups, prayer partners, etc. Find a way to make personal connections.

GOING OUT:

Knock. Send out mission teams-door to door invitation or consider giving a Christmas gift (if Christians don’t celebrate Christmas who will?)

Open Your Door. Host an event that is open to the wider community (e.g. Neighborhood Caroling, Christmas Concert, etc.)

Send a Card. Parishes in the ADW have used mailing campaigns to make an initial touchpoint with residents, especially new residents.

