

**Diocese of Covington
Evangelization Weekend
Resource Packet**

Prior to Evangelization Weekend:

Planning:

- Promote Evangelization Weekend in advance (see next section for details)
- Select a date for an informational meeting or open house within a week after Evangelization Weekend
- Organize materials for information table on Evangelization Weekend and for the informational meeting or open house
- Arrange for speakers to give witness talks during all Vigil and Sunday Masses at the parish on Evangelization Weekend

Promotion:

- Promotion by the Diocesan Office of Catechesis and Formation
 - Messenger Article / Advertisement
 - Social Media
 - Sacred Heart Radio
 - Possible advertising in secular media
- Promotion in Individual Parishes
 - Begin 2 weekends prior to Evangelization Weekend
 - Encourage parishioners to “bring a non-Catholic friend or family member to Mass” on Evangelization Weekend
 - Invite those who are not Catholic to come to Mass to encounter Christ in the people of God and the Liturgy and to learn more about the Catholic Church
 - Suggested Ideas for promotion:
 - Parish Website
 - Parish Social Media (Facebook page, Twitter)
 - Parish App
 - E-mail to parishioners
 - Parish signs (marquee in front of church)
 - Flyers [See: SampleEvangelizationWeekendFlyer.doc]
 - On physical bulletin boards
 - Inserted in parish bulletin
 - Pulpit announcements by pastor or presider during Mass

**Diocese of Covington
Evangelization Weekend
Resource Packet**

During Evangelization Weekend:

- Witness talks at all Masses at every parish (after communion – 5 min or less)
 - Preferably by neophytes who have been received that year, or in recent years
 - If no recent neophytes available to speak, ask former sponsors or RCIA team members to give a witness about the RCIA from their personal experience
 - See attached outline for preparing the witness talk [WitnessTalkOutline.pdf]
- Information Table in Church vestibule all weekend before and after Masses
 - RCIA in Diocese brochures
(Available at covdio.org on Office of Catechesis and Formation page: Religious Education, RCIA Manual Contents, Appendix, Evangelization)
 - Information on being a sponsor
(Available at covdio.org on Office of Catechesis and Formation page: Religious Education, RCIA Manual Contents, Appendix, Sponsors)
 - Parish-specific RCIA information – One-page handout should include:
 - Pastor's name and contact information
 - RCIA Director / Coordinator name and contact information
 - Day and time of RCIA faith formation sessions
 - Flyer with details about Information Session / Open House in the coming week
 - Sign-up sheet with name, email address, phone number to be contacted by RCIA Director / Coordinator or Pastor
(see sample sign-up sheet in Evangelization Weekend Resources)
 - Books / Lighthouse Catholic Media CD's and other resources regarding the Catholic Church or becoming Catholic; ideas include but certainly not limited to:
 - Rome Sweet Home by Dr. Scott Hahn (book)
 - Why a Protestant Pastor Became Catholic by Dr. Scott Hahn (audio recording)
 - Why Be Catholic? by Patrick Madrid (audio recording)
 - An Invitation to Consider the Catholic Faith by Fr. Francis Peffley (audio recording)
 - Seven Reasons to be Catholic by Dr. Peter Kreeft (audio recording)
 - There are many more good books and audio CD's from Catholic publishers that would be appropriate and effective

**Diocese of Covington
Evangelization Weekend
Resource Packet**

After Evangelization Weekend:

- Open House / Information Night at parish the following week (1 - 2 hour time frame on a weekday evening or the following Sunday after Mass)
 - During evangelization weekend, potential inquirers are invited to attend open house to find out more information and ask questions
 - Parishioners are encouraged to invite and even accompany a non-Catholic friend or family member to the open house
 - Same information provided at info tables at Masses, would be available at open house, with RCIA Director / Coordinator, team members, and possibly the pastor available to answer questions
 - Additional, more detailed information could also be provided (e.g. a video or slideshow if location of session permits)
 - Open house can be held in a parish meeting room or even in church vestibule with church tours available as part of the open house activities
 - Simple, light refreshments may be offered to create a more welcoming atmosphere
- Parish RCIA Directors / Coordinators and Pastors should be prepared to work with Inquirers immediately. This does not necessarily indicate organized, weekly meetings or starting Catechesis. Ideas include:
 - Assigning RCIA Team members or other parishioners as “Mass Companions” to accompany inquirers at Sunday Mass, to help them feel welcome / comfortable, and to answer questions
 - Beginning pre-catechumenate activities (as directed by the RCIA ritual book and the Diocese of Covington RCIA Policies and Guidelines Manual)
 - Celebrate a Rite of Welcome with baptized, well-churched candidates and begin dismissing them at Mass for Reflection on the Word (does not have to be every week, especially over the summer)
 - Maintaining contact with inquirers and working to identify and train sponsors / godparents to prepare for the beginning of the Catechumenate stage
 - Preparing inquirers for the Rite of Acceptance / Rite of Welcome when they are ready