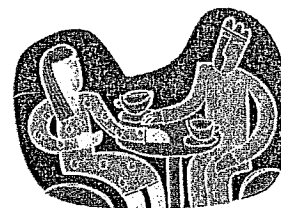


Blessed Trinity Parish



Home Visitor Training

Rationale for Home Visits

Purpose of the Visits - Why will you be visiting parishioners?

Preparation Phase

- Timeline

- Materials

- Home Visitors

Visiting Day

- Timeline

- Visitor Training

- Commissioning of Home Visitors

- Home Visits

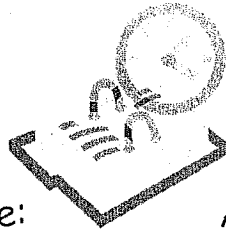
Follow-Up

- Thank You's/Materials

- Evaluation

Home Visitor Training

SAMPLE Timeline



Date:

Activity:

Person/s
Responsible:

8 Weeks
before Visits

BUILD A PLAN:

- ◆ Determine purpose of visits
- ◆ Begin development of visitation lists
- ◆ Determine # of Visitors needed based on # of people to be visited
- ◆ Brainstorm possible Visitors
- ◆ Invite people to be Visitors

Stewardship Cmte. *or*
Home Visit Ad Hoc
& Pastor

7 Weeks
before Visits

- ◆ Develop brochure or letter explaining home visits to prospects
- ◆ Continue to personally invite Visitors

6 - 5 Weeks
before Visits

- ◆ Send letter to those identified to be Visited

4 Weeks
before Visits

- ◆ Meet with Visitors to explain Home Visits; go through Visitor list; divide up list; prep for phone calls
- ◆ Home Visitors make personal calls to prospective Visitees to set up visits
- ◆ Begin publicity: pulpit and bulletin announcements re: Home Visits
- ◆ Determine materials/supplies for visits

Home Visitor Commissioning Service - *Sample*

Today is a very special day for Blessed Trinity Parish. We will be visiting the homes of our families as part of our Parish Stewardship Program. The Visitors will, in a special way, be witnessing to the love we have for our parish and our church and will be bringing that love to the homes of our parish community.

The Home Visitors have participated in this liturgy. At this time, we would ask the Visitors and the Committee to please stand. We offer them our blessing that the walk they take today will be one with and in the name of the Lord and that the witness they give will be one of deep love and faithful commitment to the Gospel.

Let us pray: Compassionate God, we are here to give ourselves to you and to your people. It is through who we are and do that others will come to know you. We are here to bring peace and healing, to witness your love to others. Teach us to be sight for the blind, ears for those who are deaf to hear your word, hands for those who look to build a kingdom of love. Guide our steps, keep us safe, fill us with peace.

Spirit of Power, time and again throughout history you anointed your servants and sent them on the mission to speak your word, always renewing the face of the earth in such a variety of ways that creation itself sings of your glory and the human family reflects your beauty a thousand times over.



(Extending hands over the water): Come, Spirit of the Living One, bless this water of Commissioning. Make it a source of gladness and tenderness. We pray that by this blessing, our hands and hearts might be strengthened for the task to which you sent us, that we be compassionate to human need, tender and strong in our care for one another, genuine in our friendship, and faithful in the commitment we have made.

At this time, I would ask that all of our Parish Visitors come to the altar to be blessed and I invite the congregation to join in singing "Let Us Build the City of God."

(All are gathered and the following blessing is given):

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

I now ask that each of you take a moment and open your minds and hearts to the acceptance of God's blessings which will pass through you to all of our parishioners.

(Pause for a moment, and then the celebrant will give the congregation the dismissal blessing.)

Home Visits

Do's and Don'ts for Visitors:

DO . . .

be pleasant and open with everyone.

wear a name tag identifying yourself from the parish and introduce yourself.

stop back at least once more during the week, if no one is home the first time.

be familiar with materials and general information given out.

return completed materials to the coordinator/committee within a day.

use the 'observations' form to record any information that you feel should be received by the parish staff.

encourage the parishioner to fill out a Parish Concerns Card if they have issues/concerns that deal with the parish.

invite the parishioner to a Parish event, other than Mass. Arrange to meet them there.

encourage them to learn about the parish; establish a relationship.

DON'T . . .

become engaged in arguments, discussions or long explanations.

complete the Financial Commitment Card or Time/Talent form for each family. Let them do this unless they are unable.

question people's decisions.

argue if people refuse to participate. Just make a note and return it to the Parish.