

When they come, what makes them stay?

Practical Suggestions for
Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost
and beyond...



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Secretariat for Evangelization
“assisting parishes to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ”

Did You Know?



□ Documents

Evangelization in the Modern World (Pope Paul VI, 1975)

- Evangelization is the central mission of the Church. (#14)
- It is the mission of all baptized Catholics. (#59)

Go and Make Disciples (U.S. Bishops, 1992)

- Catholic Evangelization means bringing people to worship, community and service. (#25)
- **Every** Catholic can be a minister of welcome and reconciliation to those who have stopped practicing the faith. (#40)
- People will know they are invited to experience Jesus in our Church **if** they are **effectively** asked and **adequate** provisions are made for this full participation. (#54)

□ Statistics

- 69 million Catholics in the United States (24% of the population).
- 21 million inactive Catholics in the United States. (Gallup, 2001)
- 98 mil. (47%) of American adults are unchurched. (George Gallup, 2001)
- Of Catholics born between 1946 and 1961, 33% remained loyal to the Church, 67% dropped out. Of the 67% who dropped out, 25% have returned to the Church.. (*The Spiritual Journeys of the Baby Boom Generation*, pg. 176, Wade Clark Roof.)
- 40% of alienated Catholics said they would consider coming back to the Church if they felt the Church wanted them.
- 42% of all Catholics drop out during some time in their lives.

□ Why people leave (Dean R. Hoge)

- Family Tension: when old move away from family and church
- Weary: bored by the Church
- Lifestyle: People who do not comply with Church laws
- Spiritual Need: Seeking community, bible study, dynamic preaching
- Anti-Change: objected to changes after Vat. II

Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church pp. 7-9 (Lorene Hanley Duquin)

□ Why people return (Dean R. Hoge)

- Marriage-Life: influenced by a spouse or concern for their marriages.
- Family-Life: concern for children's religious upbringing
- Guilt-Feelings: feel nostalgic, for the religion of their youth
- Seeker: searching for answers, dealing with life issues

Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church, pp. 175-178 (Lorene Hanley Duquin)



Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter

Remote Preparation

Affirm the Congregation

- “You are great people.”
- “Thank you for taking the time to come and worship with us.”
- “Let us pray for one another as we continue to live out our faith.”
- “Take the joy of this celebration into your everyday life.”
- “Let us support one another in our efforts this week.”



Challenge the Congregation

- to invite others into a deeper relationship with Christ
- to be Christ to all those they meet
- to make these holy days special for someone else.

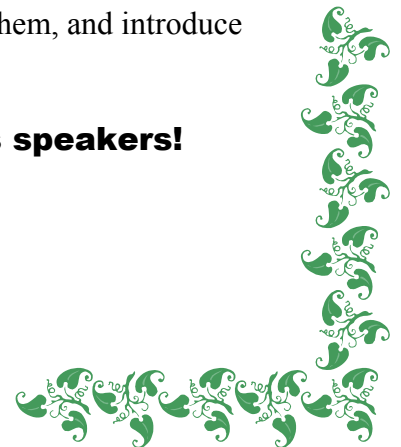
Consider this situation:

“Someone you know is away from the Church. He/she called to say that their family just moved and they decided to start fresh by going to Church on Ash Wednesday. What do you hope they would find at that liturgy which would make them want to stay in the parish?”

Involve the Congregation

- Distribute Parish Postcard to families, friends, neighbors and work associates.
- Accompany someone to the liturgy or parish event. (don't just tell them, come WITH them).
- Sit in middle of pew. It says to others: “Come and celebrate with me.”
- Introduce yourself to those who join you in the pew, welcome them to the parish.
- After the liturgy thank the newcomers for their presence and invite them back next week. If there is a gathering after Mass, invite them, go with them, and introduce them to others.

Prepare materials, set up programs, get witness speakers!



Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter

Immediate Preparation

☐ **Ministers of Hospitality: An Essential Ministry of the Christian Community**

Have ministers at all entrances so everyone is greeted. Engage people of all ages. Wear name tags with first name very visible.

Before the service:

- Say: “Welcome to...name of parish”
- Hold doors open (inner and outer doors)
- Hand out materials (optional)
- Assist with seating

After the service:

- Resume your post and thank people for coming
- Hand out appropriate information



☐ **Introduction at Mass by commentator:**

“Welcome to our Ash Wednesday (Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday) Liturgy and a special welcome to our guests. If you are searching for a spiritual home please consider our parish. There are guest cards in every pew. Please fill one out and place it in the collection basket or give to one of the ushers. Again, we thank all of you for coming. Before we begin, let us turn to one another and share a greeting and our name.”

Optional: Invite guests to stand and thank them for coming

☐ **Witness Speaker for Ash Wednesday:**

Rationale: Lay person sharing their faith story. He or she stresses the value of the Mass and the support of others on that journey. Encourages those who have been away from Mass to come home.

Time: 3 minutes. Check with celebrant for the appropriate time during the Liturgy.

Keys to Success:

- Emphasize that it is a WITNESS not a talk. Speak from the “I” perspective
- Practice before others for constructive criticism
- Time the talk
- Practice on the microphone
- Have eye contact
- Conclude with the value of the Mass, the community, setting time aside for prayer*

*Some people who come to Church on Ash Wednesday do not attend on a regular basis because they cannot receive the Eucharist. At least on Ash Wednesday they can receive Ashes with the rest of the community. In the witness talk highlight the community and Word aspect of the Liturgy.



Suggested Witness Talk

“Hello, my name is _____. Doesn’t Ash Wednesday come around fast! We have barely put away our Christmas decorations when Lent is upon us. This day (Ash Wednesday) is always a wake-up call for me. You see. . .”

Personal witness – I left the Church, struggle with personal issues, etc. (Personal experiences that may speak to the hearts of the community. Emphasize the importance of the Mass in helping through the crisis.)

“Yet, regardless of how far I move from the Church, there was something within me that wanted me to come back on Ash Wednesday and begin again. I am grateful for the season of Lent and I am grateful for the weekly gift of the Mass. My prayer for myself and for you is that we enter into this holy season with a desire to change our hearts and be open to God’s love. Let us allow this liturgy and all of our Lenten services to strengthen and guide us in our relationships, our homes and our week.”



□ End of Mass Announcement

“As you leave today’s liturgy we have a gift for all of you as a way to continue reflecting on this liturgy. you. If you are a guest, we offer you a special gift as well.”

Gifts for the whole congregation:

- Ash Wednesday—cross, stone, nail, cocoon, caterpillar, schedule
- Palm Sunday – Palms, Schedule of Holy Week Services
- Easter Sunday – colored egg, butterfly, flower, Easter candle, Holy Water
- Attractive flyer inviting them to the various Lenten services and programs
- Additional suggestions found in the parish packet

Gifts for guests, they receive the items above plus:

- Religious bookmark (see sample in parish kit and on pg. 7)
- A bag of seeds with a message that reads: *Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10). May these seeds be a reminder of the potential within all of us for greatness. If you are not part of any faith community we invite you to (parish name, address, phone, times of Masses).* This would be especially appropriate to hand out on Easter.
- Pamphlet (see suggested pamphlets at end of booklet)

Lenten Penance/Reconciliation

❑ CONFESSION—PARDON AND PEACE: EVERY CHURCH, EVERY WEDNESDAY

The Archdiocese is asking every Parish to offer the Sacrament of Penance five Wednesdays of Lent: Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, March 6 and March 13 from 7:00—8:30 PM. It will be advertised with billboards on Rt. 95 and 76; Radio Stations and Transit signs.

Parish Action Step:

Create a flyer to be handed out to all those who attend Ash Wednesday Services. Title it: **PARDON AND PEACE: EVERY CHURCH, EVERY WEDNESDAY**. Include the name, address and phone number of your parish and a couple of local parishes as well, giving people the option of other churches. (Also pass out flyer at other liturgical and parish functions.)

❑ FAITH SHARING: FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

Offers spiritual guidance for individuals and small communities who desire to live more intentionally in the reconciling love of God.



Forgiving and being forgiven bring the great liberation of reconciliation—forgiveness being an inside job, reconciliation involving interaction. As we read the insightful wisdom of Jean Marie Hiesberger and the many inspiring stories of forgiveness and reconciliation she recalls, we understand more profoundly people's desire to be forgiven and the steps we may want to take to live reconciled lives. In making the connection between the healing power of God and forgiveness, the author helps us see the richness of the sacraments of reconciliation and discover again how to live in the freedom of God.

The book offers six sessions

Session 1: "The call to forgive"

Session 2: "Jesus: teacher and healer"

Session 3: "Reconciliation: hastening the reign of God"

Session 4: "A light on the mountain: witness of the Church community"

Session 5: "Seeking forgiveness: being strengthened to forgive"

Session 6: "The Sacrament of Reconciliation"

To order: RENEW International: 888-433-3221; Renewiwww.renewintl.org

❑ ADULT FAITH FORMATION: DVD: THE LUMP Cost: \$10.00

A lot of us have done things in our lives that we're ashamed of. Some are small things, and some of us have really big and devastating things. Some of us even have things that people close to us don't know about. Personal junk that we keep to ourselves so we don't have to deal with it. Because we don't know how to deal with it, do we? We're afraid that if we try it's just going to make everything worse. But no matter how big our junk is, no matter how much what we've done has impacted the way other people feel about us or how we feel about ourselves, it hasn't changed how God feels about us. God loves us, he always has and always will, and there's nothing we can do to change that.

Includes 32-page discussion book To Order: 877-776-7755; www.nooma.com

Celebrate Pentecost

When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

Pentecost could be considered the “feast day” of all Catholics. It is the feast that celebrates our call to witness to our faith. Anointed at our baptism and empowered by the Holy Spirit we, too, are called to “make disciples”. By highlighting this feast in your parish, you address **Goal 1** in the Evangelization Document: *Go and Make Disciples*.

Goal 1

“Bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.”

On Pentecost Sunday

1. Invite all parishioners to wear something red at Mass
2. At the Mass give out tri-fold: *Everyday Evangelizing for Everyday Catholics*. Explain the brochure:
 - Look over the left inside panel which is a summary of evangelization.
 - Bring their attention to the top of the center inside panel: “*Before You Can Evangelize*”. Go over the suggested ways that they can continue to grow in their faith.
 - Go over “*Everyday Evangelizing in the Home . . . parish . . . Workplace, etc.*” Speak about ways that they already evangelize and point out some areas in which they can be challenged.
 - Offer them time to reflect on the tri-fold.
 - Encourage them to take it home, reflect on it and see how they can continue to evangelize.
3. Honor an evangelizing parishioner with a PENTECOST AWARD

Process for Honoring an Evangelizer on Pentecost Sunday:

- Inform parish five weeks in advance explaining: What is the Parish PENTECOST AWARD? Why the name “PENTECOST AWARD”? How is the recipient chosen?
- Encourage people to nominate
- Follow instructions on time-line (CD Rom)

On CD:

- *Everyday Evangelizing for Everyday Catholics*
- PENTECOST AWARD Criteria
- PENTECOST AWARD Nomination Form
- PENTECOST AWARD
- Time Line for Annual PENTECOST AWARD



Anniversary of St. Paul

Pope announces special year dedicated to St. Paul

Catholic News Service, 12/6/07

Pope Benedict XVI announced a special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul, saying the church needs modern Christians who will imitate the apostle's missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice.

The Pope said the Pauline year will run from June 28, 2008, to June 29, the eve of the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, patron saints of Rome.

Resources of **St. Paul** available from Pauline Books and Media
215-676-9494; www.pauline.org

❑ **DVD**

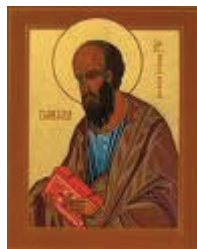
- *Paul the Apostle* - the Bible Collection. 180 min. DVD #122906
- *Apostle Paul and the Earliest Churches*. A 48 minute DVD on the places to which Paul traveled.

❑ **Books**

- *Paul, Least of the Apostles - The Story of the Most Unlikely Witness to Christ* - by Alain Decaux
- *Jesus and Paul - Parallel Lives* - by Jerome Murphy-O'Connor
- *Acts - the Good News of the Holy Spirit - A guided Discovery for Groups and Individuals* by Kevin Perrotta
- *St. Paul - the Thirteenth Apostle - Saints for Young People* by Sr. Mary Lea Hill, FSP
- *Novena Book in Honor of St. Paul*

❑ **Series on St. Paul**

- *Paul for Everyone* with individual books for the Letters of St. Paul - author Tom Wright
- *Navarre Bible* with individual books for each of the Letters of St. Paul - various authors
- *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible* with individual books for each of the Letters of St. Paul - various authors



2008: The Year of the "WORD"

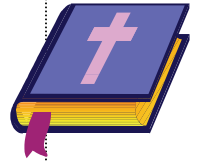
Pope says he hopes 2008 synod helps Catholics value the Bible

Catholic News Service, 5/24/07

Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped the preparation for and celebration of the 2008 world Synod of Bishops would help Catholics realize how important the Bible is in their lives and the life of the church.

The synod, to be held Oct. 5-26, 2008, will focus on THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Pope Benedict said he hoped the entire synod process would help Catholics “rediscover the importance of the Word of God in the life of every Christian, every ecclesial community and even every civil community.”



Greater City-Wide Bible Distribution The Scripture Outreach Ministry of IBS-STL Global

The mission of the International Bible Society—Send the Light Global (IBS-STL) is to advance the kingdom of God through translating, producing and distributing Bibles, Scripture materials, and other Christian resources so people around the world may become disciples of Jesus Christ.

A ministry of IBS—STL Global is City Reachers™ whereby “You can reach your city with God’s Word”. They intend to spread the Word of God in Philadelphia in three ways:

- **PROMOTE:** Promote regular Scripture reading within our churches through E100: ESSENTIAL 100: Based on one hundred carefully selected passages from the Old and New Testaments beginning Jan. 1, 2008.
- **DISTRIBUTE** over 400,000 New Testaments that depict Philadelphia images and testimonies to our communities via Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer and other ways in Spring 2008. (Target date is April 12-13)
- **FOLLOW-UP** with neighbors, friends, and co-workers who want to learn more about the Good News.

□ Actions Steps for Catholic Parishes

Preparation

- Let the parishioners know they are being distributed
- Be prepared to offer something in your parish. (See follow-up suggestions)

Follow-Up

1. Conduct a session on “How To Read the Bible”
2. Offer a *Blessing of the New Bibles* at Mass
3. Provide Lectionary Based Faith Sharing (see suggestions in this booklet, pg. 14)



4. Present Bible Study

- **DeSales Series on the Bible: *Basic Tools for Bible Study***: eight topics, four videos, worksheets included on understanding the bible.

To order:

- St. Anthony Messenger Press 800-488-0488
- <http://catalog.americancatholic.org/product>



- **Threshold Bible Study**

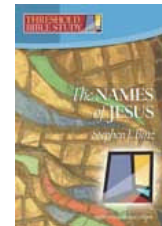
Stephen Binz. Series of books based on themes of the Bible

Threshold Bible Study is a dynamic, informative, inspiring, and life-changing series that helps you learn about Scripture in a whole new way. Each of its theme-based books will help you to explore new dimensions of your faith and discover deeper insights for your life as a disciple of Jesus.

Each book contains thirty lessons, which you can use on your own for daily study over the course of a month or it can be divided into six lessons per week, providing a group study of six weekly sessions. Through the spiritual disciplines of Scripture reading, study, reflection, conversation, and prayer, you will experience God's grace more abundantly and root your life more deeply in Christ.

To order:

- Twenty-Third Publications 800-488-0488
- www.thresholdbiblestudy.com



- **The Great Adventure Bible Time Line**

A Journey Through the Bible (Jeff Cavins)

Catholic Bible Study, called **The Great Adventure**, that made use of a color-coded, bible time-line system. Into the framework of this bible time line Cavins fits all the periods of biblical history in a way that makes eminent sense. The workbooks, charts, color-coded memory bracelets, and bible maps work together with the bible timeline to provide a complete and comprehensive overview of the history of the Bible. Presentations on DVD are also part of the sessions.

To order:

- Crossroads Productions 800-803-0118
- www.crossroadsinitiative.com



- **Little Rock Scripture Study—Introduction to the Bible—Study Set**

Open the Bible with newcomers and experienced Bible students alike. Participants will become comfortable finding their way around the Bible, develop a better understanding of its themes and writing styles, and gain clear insights about Catholic use and interpretation of the Bible.

Commentary author: Stephen J. Binz; Study Guide author: Catherine Upchurch
Study Set includes a study guide and a commentary. English and Spanish

To order:

- 501-664-6102
- www.littlerockscripture.org



Resources

❑ **Doorknob Bags**

ULINE Shipping Supply Specialists 1-800-958-5463-
http://www.uline.com/Browse_Listing_105.asp?desc=Doorknob+Bags

Or go on home page; www.uline.com

- click on “Bags, Poly/Plastic”
- click on “Poly Bags”
- click on “Doorknob Bags”

❑ **Burlap Cross**

Burlap by the yard

Purchased at JoAnn Fabrics - \$2.99 / yard

Burlap pieces are 3 ¼” x 4 ½”

Used Avery name badge label # 5395 (2 1/3” x 3 3/8”) to print parish information.

❑ **Pamphlets** Our Sunday Visitor (800-348-2440); www.osv.com/pamphlets (Cost: \$14.95 packets of 50)

- Top 10 Reasons to Come Back to Church IDP1
- How to Get More Out of the Mass IDP124
- Top Ten Questions Catholics Are Asked P9
- And more . . .



❑ **Welcome Leaflets** Liguori Publications (800-325-9521); www.liguori.org (Cost: \$6.25 packets of 25)

- The Catholic Church: A Visitor’s Guide #80395
- A Catholic Baptism #80391
- A Catholic Confirmation #80394
- The Catholic Mass #80393
- A Catholic Funeral #80390
- A Catholic Wedding #812583



❑ **Creative Communications for the Parish** 800-325-9414 www.creativecommunications.com

❑ **CD Rom**

1. Bookmarkers—WORD
2. Bookmarkers—PUBLISHER
3. Reconciliation: How to Go to Confession—
front and back
4. Parish Postcard—PUBLISHER
5. Parish Postcard—WORD
6. Pew Card
7. Prayers of the Faithful for Lent
8. Sign for Windows (4 types: English and
Spanish, filled in and outlined)
9. Witness Talk
10. Pentecost: *Everyday Evangelization for
Everyday Catholics* (front and back)
11. Pentecost Award Criteria
12. Pentecost Award Nomination Form
13. Pentecost Award
14. Pentecost Time Line for Award

Some Resources on CD



bookmark

Lord, you care for us with unconditional love.


Give us the sight to see those areas of our life that are not in harmony with your love.

Give us the desire to turn back to you.

Give us the strength to change our hearts.

During this Holy Season of Lent may we be reborn to lead a new life.

Amen.



If you are not part of any faith community we invite you to:

Name of Parish

Address (location)
Phone

Times of:

Daily Mass
Weekend Mass
Reconciliation

Other (adoration, stations of the cross)

"What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, that we might see."
Matthew 20:33

Welcome to (.....) Parish

Please indicate if there is anything we can do for you. Drop in the collection basket or hand to an usher after the service.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am looking for a Parish Home.

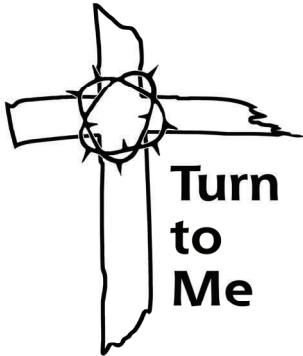
I would like to return to the Church.

I would like to know more about Catholicism.


Please pray for _____

Other: _____

Pew Cards



Cut this section off and place in the front window of your home as a witness to your faith and a reminder to others.



Are you looking for a Spiritual Home?

St. Louise Catholic Church invites you to journey with us this Lent and Easter

Distribution of Ashes: (date)
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, Noon, 3:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Weekend Masses
Saturday: 5:00 PM; Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 5:30 PM

Lenten Schedule
Stations of the Cross: Every Tues., 7:00 PM; Lenten Talk: *The Gospel of John*, Mon., (date), 7:00 PM. Penance Service: (date), 7:00 PM

Easter Schedule: Sat., (date), Sun., (date)
Easter Vigil: 8:00 PM; Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM

Contact Information

Parish Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____



Cut this section off and place in the front window of your home as a witness to your faith and a reminder to others.

Parish Postcard

Resources

Lectionary Based Faith Sharing



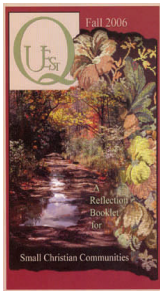
PRAYERTIME is a faith-sharing resource book, based on the Sunday Gospel reading. The themes for reflection have been designed so that they can be used either personally or in a group.

Each book offers gentle but insightful reflections that help the gospel come alive. Written in an easy-to-read style that leads to profound questions about faith, each session sheds light on everyday life and should bear fruit in realistic action.

English and Spanish.

To order:

- RENEW International, toll free 888-433-3221.
- www.renewintl.org,

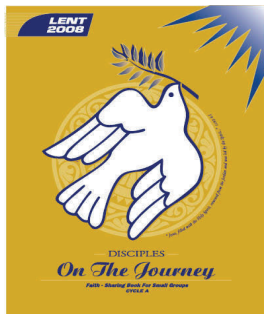


Quest Lectionary based faith sharing. Each weekly unit offers the elements for a complete small community session.

English and Spanish.

To order:

- 860-243-9642
- www.sccquest.org



Disciples on the Journey—Lent 2008

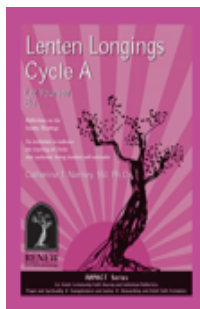
Faith Sharing Booklets for Small Communities. Lectionary-based.

All-in-One Book for adults, youth and family.

English and Spanish.

To order:

- Toll free: 866-590-3588.
- www.victoriadiocese.org/catechetical/journey_files/journey.htm.



Lenten Longings: Cycle A - by Catherine T. Nerney, SSJ, Ph.D.

Make a six-week retreat without leaving your living room. Lenten Longings is well suited for seasonal groups, small Christian communities, and individual reflection. Simple language and everyday metaphors steep you in the season's promptings to surrender self, to work for justice, and to deepen prayer life. Song suggestions, prayers, and action responses included.

To order:

- RENEW international toll free: 888-433-3221.
- www.renewintl.org/Resources

Resources

Evangelization

❑ **Archdiocese of Philadelphia**

Office for Formation of the Laity Parish Evangelization

- Sr. Louise Alff 215-587-0547. SRLALFF@adphila.org
- Connie Scharff 215-587-0504. CSCHARFF@adphila.org

❑ **Books**

- Duquin, Lorene Hanley, *Could You Ever Come Back to the Catholic Church?*
- Duquin, Lorene Hanley, *When a Loved One Leaves the Church*
- Kemp, Carrie and Pologruto, Donald, *Catholics Coming Home: A Handbook for Churches Reaching out to Inactive Catholics*
- Champlin, Joseph M. *The Marginal Catholic: Challenge, Don't Crush*

❑ **Scriptographic Booklet** by Channing L. Bete Co. *Faith Guides* (800-477-4776 www.faithguides.com. These are a few of the booklet available:

- About Being Catholic, #17202
- Sharing Your Faith, #17848
- Living Your Faith, #19232
- Why Go to Mass? #19794



❑ **Magazine** *Today's Parish* (800-321-0411)

❑ **Web Addresses**

- American Catholic: www.americancatholic.org.
- Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA): cara.georgetown.edu
(Catholic Statistics and Trends)
- Ministry to Returning Catholics: www.onceCatholic.org
- Ministry to Young Adults: www.bustedhalo.com
- Evangelization: Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PNCEA),
www.pncea.org
- Evangelization and Small Christian Communities: RENEW International,
www.renewintl.org



❑ **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

Document (800-235-8722, www.usccb.org)

A Time to Listen . . . A Time to Heal, A resource directory for Reaching out to Inactive Catholics. No. 5-306



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Office for the Formation of the Laity

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