

Initial Anonymous Questionnaire

Date:

1. I am here because:

2. My hopes/expectations in being here are:

3. My fears/apprehensions about being here are:

4. My feelings about the Church are:

5. My feelings about God at this time are:

6. The questions/issues I most want answered in these sessions are:

Other Comments:

Evaluation Form

Date: _____

1. Strengths of the series as I experienced them are:

a)

b)

c)

2. Suggestions for improving the sessions are:

a)

b)

c)

3. Would you be willing to promote an upcoming series by:

YES

NO

a) Participating on the planning team and helping with specific tasks

b) Attending on-going sessions and giving personal witness

c) Other comments/observations:

Name:

Address:

Phone #:

Sign-up Sheet

Date: _____

Name	Address	Phone #	How did you find out about these sessions?
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			

<insert parish name & address>

Team

<insert team members' name, address, phone #>

Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following Your will, does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does – in fact – please You. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Catholics Returning Home Schedule

Catholics Returning Home sessions are offered as a six-week series in September and after Christmas and Easter. The sessions are from <insert start, end times> at <insert parish name & meeting location>. The sessions are structured in a support-group format. Therefore, participants are free to attend as many or as few sessions as they wish.

**<insert parish name>
Meeting Schedule
<insert date>**

Date	Location	Session
		1 Welcome Complete Open-ended Questionnaire Sharing by participants/team members – Why am I here? Overview of the series, changes since Vatican II, status of non-practicing Catholics.
		2 Video “Stories of Faith from Catholics Returning Home” Sharing by participants Q&A
		3 The Church Today Optional Video Q&A
		4 Explanation of the Mass Q&A
		5 Tips on Sinning: Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession Q&A
		6 Creed: What Catholics Believe Q&A

<Insert parish name> **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Announcements

We are asking each of you to make a special effort to ask any of your non-practicing friends, relatives or acquaintances to attend our **Catholics Returning Home** series beginning Wednesday April 11th at 7:30 in the Extended Day Room. See bulletin announcement for more information.

We are asking each of you to make a special effort to ask any of your non-practicing friends, relatives, or acquaintances to join us for Easter services. We invite them to attend our **Catholics Returning Home** series beginning Wednesday April 11th. See the bulletin announcement.

Our parish family is delighted that those of you who do not worship regularly with us chose to be with us for this Easter Sunday Celebration. Please note the special announcement in the bulletin for the series entitled "**Catholics Returning Home**" which is for people who are away from the church.

We welcome returning Catholics who are here to worship with us today. We have a special program for non-practicing Catholics who may be considering a return to the Church. This program begins Wednesday April 11th. For more information, see details in the bulletin.

Prayers of the Faithful

For all those who have drifted away from the Church that we may be signs of the Lord's love and care for them.

That all who are separated from the Church may come to possess the great joy of knowing God's compassionate love and acceptance.

That those returning to the Church to celebrate with us during this <select Lenten – Easter > season may be blessed with a renewal of faith and a closer walk with the Lord.

That those who are troubled and separated may find peace in the sacrament of reconciliation at our parish celebrations during this holy season.

For those who have left the Church, that the Lord's compassionate love will lead them back.

For those who accepted our invitation to return home to the Church, that they may be blessed with a renewal of faith and a closer walk with the Lord.

Bulletin Articles

Contact person: <insert Catholic Returning Home coordinator's name, phone number>

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 these loved ones however 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 baptized, 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. Secondly, 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 a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church so they 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 Saint Damian's we have a special program to help non-practicing Catholics return to the Church called **Catholics Returning Home**. The next series begins April 11th at 7:30 in the Extended Day Room. Please pass this article on to anyone who might be interested. For more information about **Catholics Returning Home** call Deacon John at 708-602-8513.

Catholics Returning Home

Saint Damian Church will offer a six-week series entitled "**Catholics Returning Home**" beginning April 11th at 7:30 pm in the Extended Day Room. The sessions are for non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the church. If you know someone who has left the church, please invite them to join us. For more information, call Deacon John at 708-602-8513.

Have You Drifted Away from the Church?

Are you angry with the Church or God? Please give us a chance to listen to and address your concerns. Join us for our informal weekly sessions beginning <insert start date, place, and time>. The meetings will be facilitated by former non-practicing Catholics who may find share many of your feelings. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

An Invitation to Non-Practicing Catholics

The Church has changed and you may not know it! Has it been a while since you've been to Church??? Are you mad at the Church or at God? Please give us, and yourself another chance. Join us for informal sessions for non-practicing Catholics. We would like to know your feelings and try to address your questions.

The meetings will be held in <insert time and place> on six consecutive <day> evenings beginning <insert start date>. If you have any questions in the meantime, please call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

Get Rid of those Negative Feelings!!

Have you been hurt or angered by the Church? There are others who may share many of your feelings. Please give the Church and yourself another chance by joining us at six weekly sessions on <insert day> evenings at <insert time and place> beginning <insert start date>. Former non-practicing Catholics will share their stories and listen to your feelings and concerns. There is no obligation, and perhaps some of your questions will be answered. For more information, please call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

An Invitation for Non-Practicing Catholics

If you are a Catholic who has been away from the Church for a while, this invitation is for you. No matter how long you have been away and no matter what reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church. Please join us for informal listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith facilitated by former non-practicing Catholics. No strings attached!

<Insert place> on six consecutive <insert day> evenings at <insert time> beginning <insert start date>. For more information, call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

Catholics Returning Home

We are happy to report that we have had numerous calls from people seeking answers to questions about returning to the Catholic Church. Many have been attending our meetings over the last several months on <insert day> evenings at <insert time and place>. These are people of all ages who have been away from the Church. Our next series begins <insert day, start date, time and place>. We would like to invite anyone who is interested to join us. Please call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number> for more information.

Catholics Returning Home

Have you been away from the Church for a while? Have you ever thought about returning? If so, we would like to welcome you back to <insert parish name>. We have a special ministry just for people like you who have been away from the Church. Please join us for a six week series that begins <insert day, date, place and time>. We would like to address your questions and make you feel at home once more in the Catholic Church. For more information, please call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

Catholics Returning Home

- Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to Church anymore?
- Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from your Church?
- Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today?
- Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter what reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.

Date: <insert start day and date>

Time: <insert time>

Place: <insert parish name and place>

For more information, call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

***Catholics Returning Home:
An Invitation for Non - Practicing Catholics***

- Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to Church anymore?
- Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church?
- Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today?
- Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter what reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church. Please join us for informal listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith. The sessions are held at <insert start day, date, time, and place>. For more information, call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

**Catholics Returning Home
2000 Schedule**

<insert start date>	Welcome Overview of Series Sharing by team and attendees
<insert session date>	Video "Stories of Faith from Catholics Returning Home" Discussion and sharing
<insert session date>	The Church Today: Changes since Vatican II Explanation of major changes (Mass in English, Involvement, Bible Study)
<insert session date>	Walk through of the Mass (along with explanation and historical overview)
<insert session date>	Tips on Sinning – Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
<insert session date>	The Creed: What Catholics Believe

“Catholics Returning Home”

AN OPEN DOOR FOR RETURNING CATHOLICS

<insert parish names>

Welcome

- Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to Church anymore?
- Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the church?
- Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today?
- Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter what reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.

Date: <insert start date>

Time: <insert start time>

Place: <insert place>

Sponsored by the <insert area name> Catholic Parishes

Newspaper Press Release

Catholics Returning Home

<insert parish name, address> will conduct an ongoing series called **CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME** on six consecutive Thursday evenings @ <insert start time and place> beginning <insert start date>. These sessions are for non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. There will be informal sharing and an update of the Catholic faith. For more details, call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

Catholics Returning Home

Non-practicing Catholics are invited to informal listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith. This six-week series begins <insert start date and time> at <insert parish name and city>. For details, call <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name and phone number>.

Note: Please do not edit the above articles!!

Contact: <insert **Catholics Returning Home** coordinator's name, address and phone number>.

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME
NEWSPAPER/RADIO/TV LISTING**

NEWSPAPERS

<List Local Newspapers>

RADIO

<List Local Stations>

TELEVISION

<List Local Stations>

Outside Signs/Banners

**“Catholics Returning Home”
Begins Soon
Holy Joe Church
Call: xxx-xxxx**

Hand-Out for Session # 3

Pre-Vatican II and Post Vatican II

Differences after Vatican II

Refocusing on Individual from Institutional

- I Bible Study Groups
- II Diaconate (Back to Roots)
 - A Baptism
 - B Weddings
 - C Funerals
 - D Service to Community
- III Lay Ministry
- IV Lay Involvement in the Liturgy
 - A Eucharistic Ministers
 - B Contemporary Mass
 - C Liturgy Commission
 - D Laity involvement in writing of the liturgies

- E Laity – Decorating the altar
- V Confession to Reconciliation
- VI Mass
 - A Local language
 - B Removal of communion rail
 - C Priest faces congregation
 - D Congregational participation

Hand-Out for Session # 5

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Am I at peace with myself?

Am I honest with myself at all times?
Am I patient with myself?
Do I brood over my failings?
Have I forgiven myself for my sins and shortcomings?
Am I still growing, developing?
Am I set in my ways, unwilling to change?
Do I take care of myself? Physically? Spiritually?

Am I at peace with others?

What disrupts the harmony that should exist between myself and ...

- My spouse?
- My children?
- My parents?
- My relatives?
- My friends?
- My neighbors?

Do I deal justly with others, giving them what is due them:

- My employers?
- My employees?
- My fellow workers?

Am I at peace with God?

- What disrupts the harmony He wants to exist between us?
- Do I see God as a Lawgiver and Judge or as a Loving, Merciful Savior?
- Have I allowed other things or persons to take his place in my life?
- Have I thanked Him for His endless compassion and limitless love?

Am I at peace with the world?

- Do I see the world as something given to me and all persons that will come after me as a trust?
- Have I abused its resources?
- Am I wasteful: With money? With the things I use? With my time? With others' time?
- Must I always have the latest? The best?
- Do I feel responsibility for my community? Do I vote? Have I volunteered to help?

NICENE CREED

EXPLANATION

I believe in one God

Three Persons – One God

The Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

1st Person of the Trinity; Creator of ALL that which is known or unknown.

I believe in One Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Begotten SON of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from light, True God from True God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father. Through him all things were made.

2nd Person of the Trinity; Son, Redeemer; this tells us his relationship to the 1st Person; He is equal to the Father.

For us men and for OUR salvation He came down from heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became Man.

The 2nd Person of the Trinity took on humanity in the person of Jesus.

For OUR sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, death, and was buried and rose again on the third day in accordance with the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Summarizes the Paschal (Easter) Mystery. We recall this at Mass during the Memorial Acclamation. He rose from the dead, body, and soul; He returned to the Father as Jesus, 2nd Person of the Trinity, human and divine.

He will come AGAIN in glory to JUDGE the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

The Second Coming of Christ. The Final judgment at the end of time.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son He is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

3rd Person of the Trinity; Sanctifier; Relationship to the 1st and 2nd Persons of the Trinity; Equal with the Father and the Son; Source of inspiration for the scriptures.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

United in Creed, Code and Worship. Holy because Jesus is holy. Universal, founded on the Apostles.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

Initiation into the Body of Christ.

And I look forward to the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come.

We will also rise from the dead, body and soul like Jesus. Eternal life – Heaven or Hell.

Amen.

“So be it!” Statement of affirmation and acceptance.