**Invitation Sunday**

**Note:** The elements of an *Awakening Faith* Invitation Sunday appear here as a MS Word document. The content of the material that a parish may wish to use is presented below exactly as it is printed in the manual.

**The Elements of *Awakening* *Faith* Invitation Sunday**

**1. One or Two Weeks Before the *Awakening* *Faith* Invitation Sunday**

**Pulpit Announcement** (to be read at the end of Mass)

Two weeks from now (date) [or next week], our parish will sponsor an *Awakening* *Faith* Invitation Sunday to prepare us to invite Catholics who are not active in our faith community to return to a more active practice of their faith. This is a wonderful opportunity for our parish to be about the mission of Jesus. Please pray for God’s blessing on our *Awakening Faith* Invitation Sunday.

**Bulletin Item**

Do you know someone who is away from the Church? Do you wish there was something you could do? Now there is! Two weeks from now (date) [or next week], our parish will sponsor an *Awakening* *Faith* Invitation Sunday to prepare us to invite Catholics to return to a more active practice of their faith. The people we love, our friends, neighbors, and co-workers, may be open to returning to the Church. On *Awakening* *Faith* Invitation Sunday, we will learn more about our calling as disciples of Jesus to invite inactive Catholics. Please pray that God will bless our efforts.

**2. *Awakening* *Faith* Invitation Sunday**

**During Mass**

**Homily.** The Church’s mission of reconciling inactive Catholics may be incorporated into the homily of the Mass, drawing inspiration from the lectionary readings. The homilist needs to be familiar with the *Awakening* *Faith* invitation flyer and can make all or some of the following points during the homily.

* The Scriptures today speak of God’s plan that everyone is invited to the fullness of faith in Christ (*provide reflections on the Scripture readings for the Sunday*).
* Almost every parishioner attending Mass today knows at least one Catholic who is not actively participating in the sacramental life of a parish. They are family members, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers.
* Many less than active Catholics are open to, and would welcome, an invitation to renew their faith and possibly become more active in a parish.
* The *Awakening* *Faith* invitation flyer enables you to invite an inactive Catholic to six sessions, which will begin in our parish on (date). Please pick up the flyer in your pew and take a moment to read it.
* Now think of at least one inactive Catholic you know who may be open to receiving the invitation and think about an appropriate time to give it to that person in the following week. Focus on friends, neighbors, and co-workers. This invitation can make a positive difference in some people’s lives because they have been looking for something like *Awakening* *Faith*.
* Parishioners can give the invitation in a number of ways, but it should be done in a positive and caring manner. One way is to say, “I know that you have been talking more about the Catholic Church lately, and I thought that you might like to receive this invitation. I would be happy to accompany you because I would like to learn more about these topics myself.” Your generous offer to accompany the person may be welcomed. The homilist should be sure to stress that active parishioners can attend the sessions with people they bring.
* Some parishioners will be more comfortable simply giving someone the invitation flyer without entering into a conversation. Either way is fine. Our goal is to invite people to the six *Awakening* *Faith* sessions.
* Even if we feel awkward or inadequate extending the invitation, God can work powerfully through our weakness. Have confidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in all parishioners who give the invitation and in the people who receive it. And be sure to pray for the person you are inviting…before, during, and after you give the person the flyer.
* Be assured that those who attend the *Awakening* *Faith* sessions will be welcomed warmly and may benefit greatly from their participation.
* In closing, the homilist may tell the story of an inactive Catholic who returned to the Church and how this decision enriched the person’s life. This real-life story can inspire parishioners to use the *Awakening* *Faith* invitation flyer and perhaps make a similar difference in the lives of inactive Catholics they know. Tell them to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and then, during the course of the following week, to extend the invitation.

**General Intercessions**

That God will guide us this week as we invite people to attend the *Awakening* *Faith* sessions at our parish, we pray to the Lord.

That the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of those who receive the *Awakening* *Faith* invitation flyers and encourage them to respond, we pray to the Lord.

**3. One Week After *Awakening* *Faith* Invitation Sunday**

**General Intercessions**

That the Holy Spirit will inspire our parishioners to give someone they know an invitation to attend our *Awakening* *Faith* sessions, we pray to the Lord.

That the Holy Spirit will inspire those who receive the *Awakening* *Faith* invitations with a desire to attend the sessions, we pray to the Lord.

**Pulpit Announcement**

Special thanks to our parishioners who gave an *Awakening* *Faith* invitation flyer to someone during this past week. If you need more flyers, please take them from the *Awakening* *Faith* table in the back of the church (*or name the location*). Members of the *Awakening* *Faith* team are available at the table to answer your questions.

**4. One Week After the First *Awakening* *Faith* Session**

**Bulletin Item**

God is blessing our efforts to invite our Catholic brothers and sisters to the *Awakening* *Faith* sessions. The sessions have started and are very successful. Please keep the participants in your prayers.

**Pulpit Announcement**

Thank you for extending the invitations for people to attend our *Awakening* *Faith* sessions. The sessions have started and are very successful. Please continue to pray that God will bless all the participants. It is still possible for other people to join in this program.