



The Practice of Evangelization In Our Parishes

**Session Two:
Welcome**



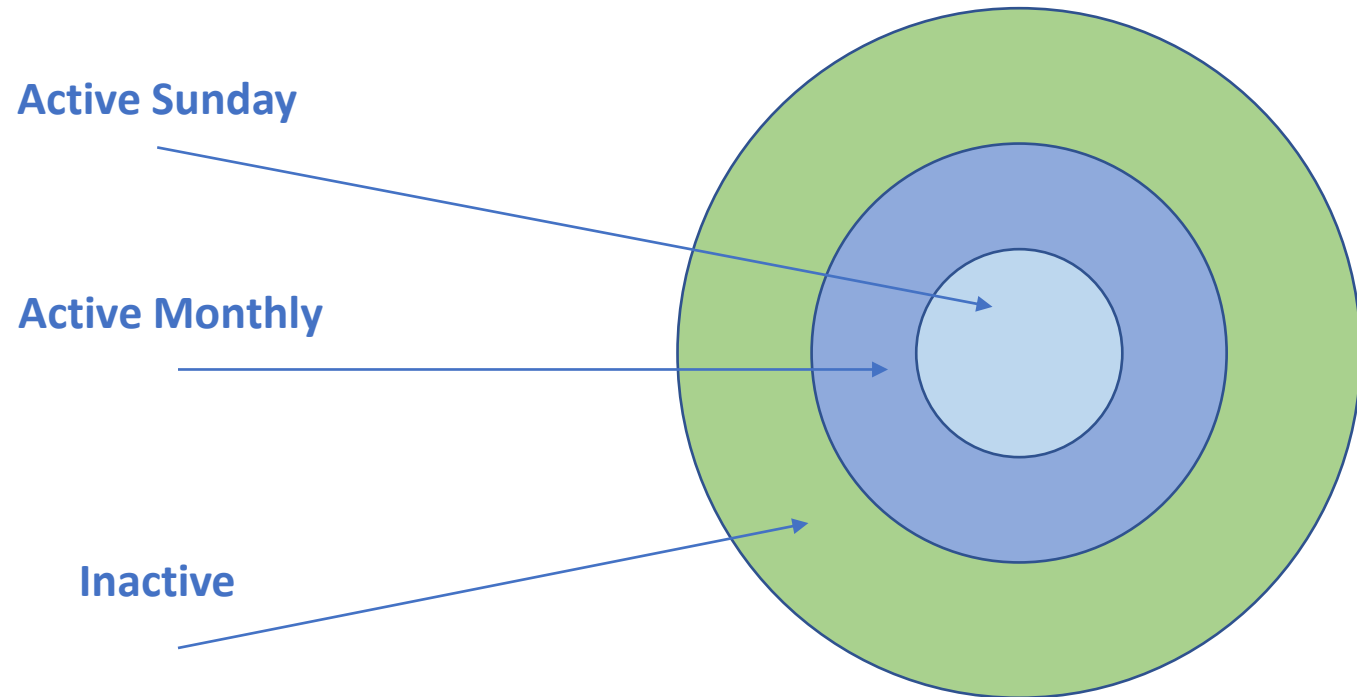
Opening Prayer

Loving God, you called each of us by name, and gave your only Son to redeem us. In your faithfulness, you sent the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of Jesus among us. Open our hearts to Jesus. Give us the courage to speak his name to those who are close to us, and the generosity to share his love with those who are far away. We pray that every person throughout the world be invited to know and love Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. May they come to know his all-surpassing love. May that love transform every element of our society. Amen.

Welcoming Parishioners

Levels of participation in parish

- 40% Active
 - 20% every Sunday
 - 20% once a month
- 60% Inactive



Themes for the Session

#1: How do we reach out to our
somewhat active Catholics?

#2: How do we reach out to our
rather inactive Catholics?



Theme #1
Goals for active
parishioners

See themselves as disciples:
beyond “Mass and CCD”



Welcome

Being a welcoming parish is an absolute first step.
Unless people begin to see the personal dynamics
of a parish, it will remain just an “organization.”
Only when they feel connected to a group will they
be able to invest in the group through commitment.



Poll

How would you rate your parish in terms of welcoming people on Sunday (in ordinary, pre-pandemic terms)?

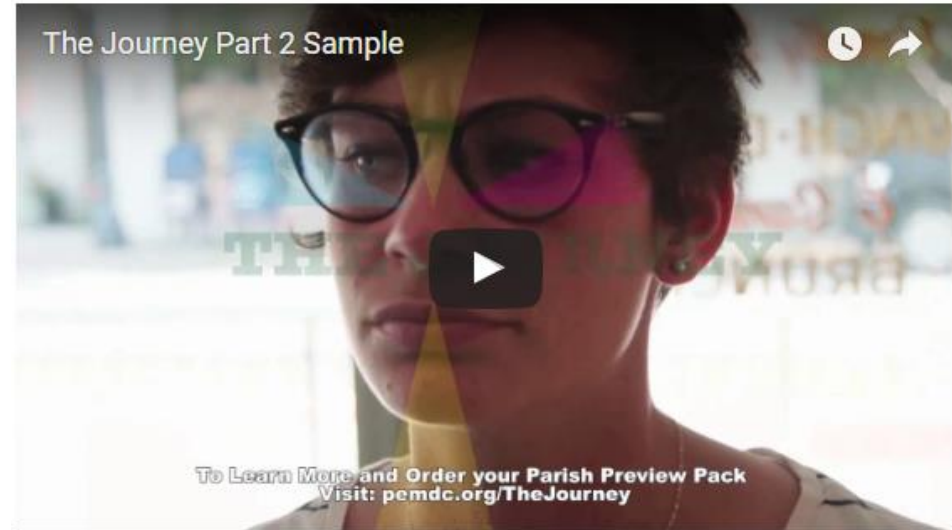
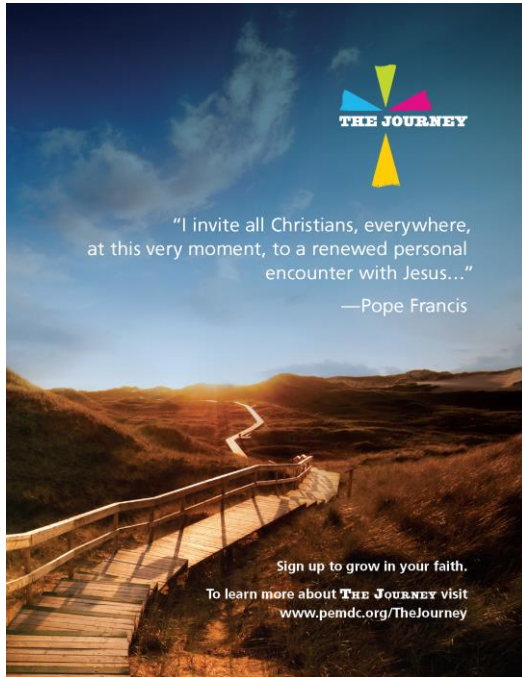
- Excellent
- Fairly good
- Good
- Not very good
- Poor





Discipleship Programming Opportunities

- Refocus the Sunday homily to emphasize discipleship
- New emphasis on family involvement in religious education
 - Families are consistent part of outreach and formation
- Adult Faith Formation
 - Emphasize themes of discipleship and personal experience
 - Across all ages of parish
- Programs that foster discipleship
- Parish retreats and missions

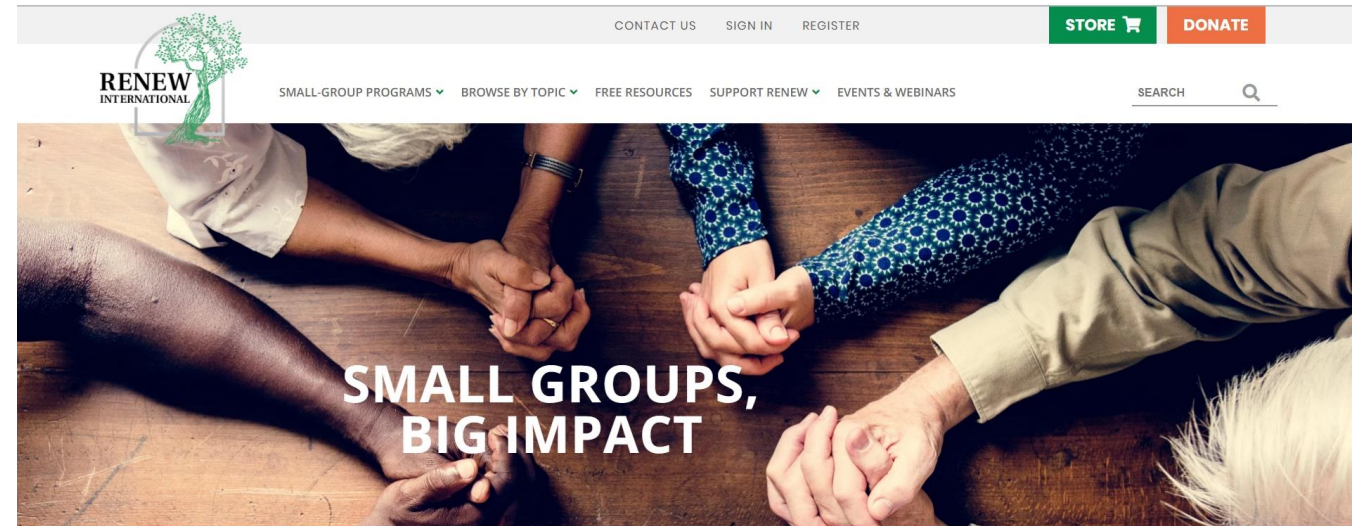


The Journey/El Camino



Renew International

- Many resources for small group sharing
- Unique opportunities for Catholics: they must talk and share, and it frees them up to a new experience of faith



- Emphasize mission and service
- Open ministries to other and new parishioners
- Establish consistent program of social events
- Produce activities in neighborhoods or developments
- Consistent contact with parishioners through:
 - Email blasts
 - Social media
 - Flocknote
 - Flyers
 - Snail mail
 - Phone
 - Home visits

Active Parishioners



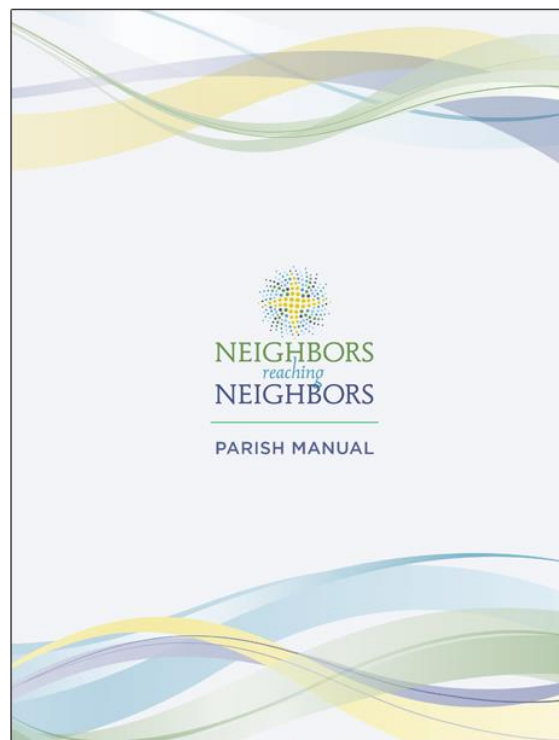
Increase their capacity to reach out to others:

- Develop instruments for invitation: cards, brochures
- Set certain Sundays for honoring friends and visitors
- Utilize the children's programming for whole parish
- **Neighbors Reaching Neighbors** handouts

Active Parishioners



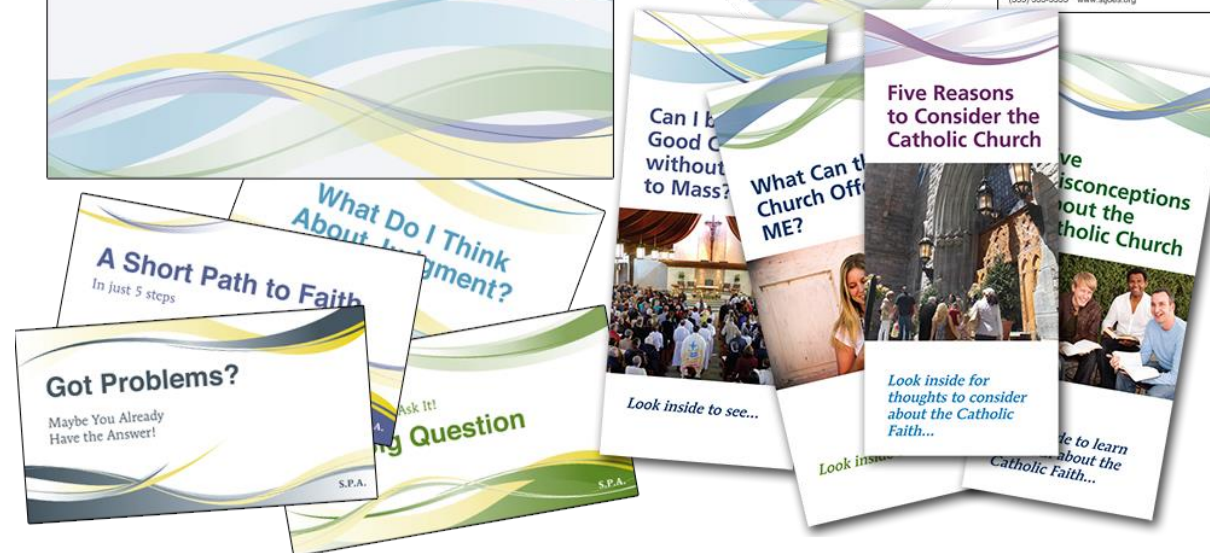
Neighbors Reaching Neighbors



MAYBE WE HAVE WHAT YOU'RE SEEKING
St. Joseph Catholic Church

Rev. John Smith, Pastor

123 Iris Street, Anywhere, ST 12345
(555) 555-5555 www.stjoes.org





Increase Involvement

**“Stewardship Sunday” or
“Disciple Sunday”**

“Festival of Ministries”

**Ad hoc ministries focused on
emergencies, local needs**

**Groups partnering to serve
other groups in the parish**



Questions?





#2 Less-Than- Active Catholics

- Young Adults
- Young Parents
- School and Religious Ed Families
- People in “marriage situations”

**Contact and Conversation
is the Key!**

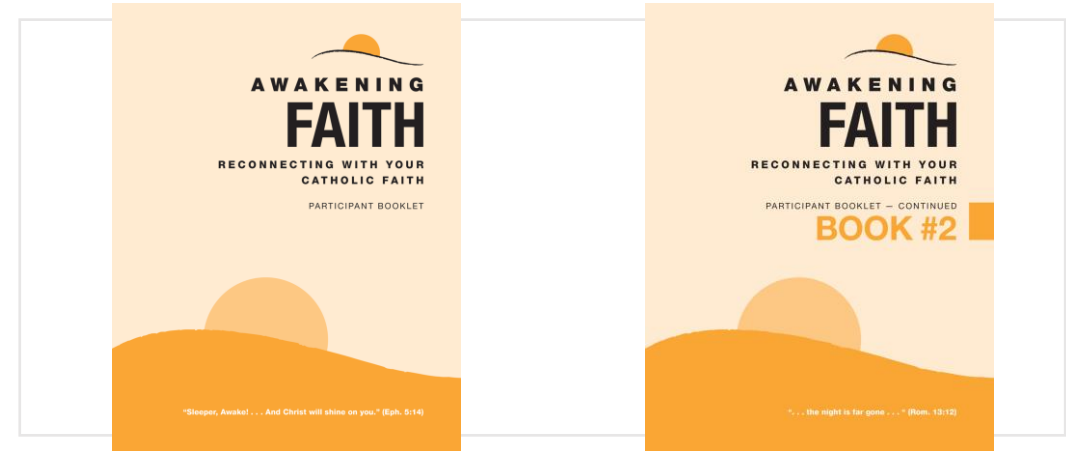


Less-Than-Active Catholics

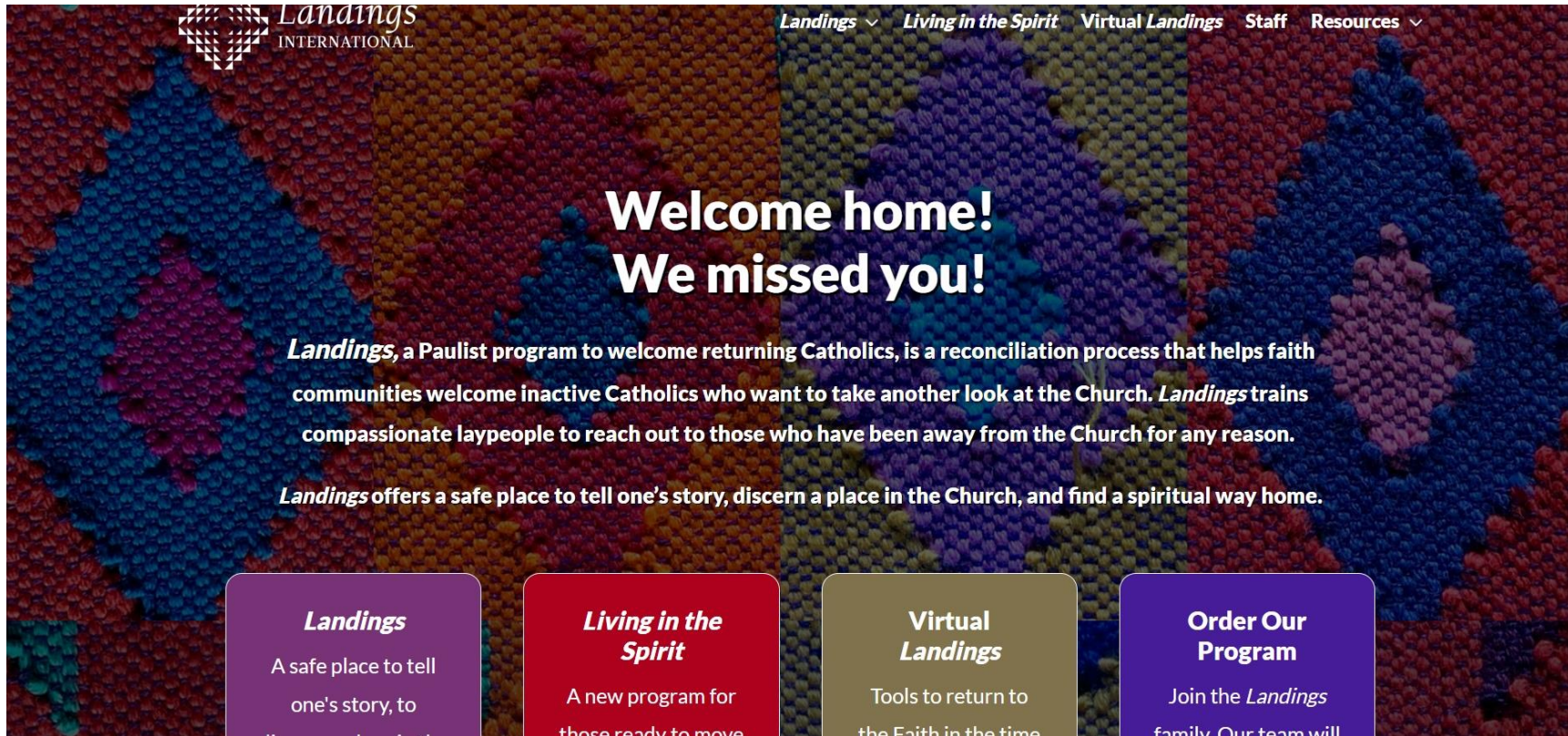
- Create opportunities for encounter
 - Social and service activities
 - Service is key:
 - Seniors
 - Homeless
 - Unemployed
 - Imprisoned
 - Grieving
- Develop forums for
 - Asking questions:
 - “Issues and Answers”
 - “Catholic Trivia”
 - Fun events
 - Discussion and sharing
 - **Awakening Faith**
 - **Landings**



Awakening Faith: Conversations and Sharing



Landings International



Landings
INTERNATIONAL

[Landings](#) ▾ [Living in the Spirit](#) [Virtual Landings](#) [Staff](#) [Resources](#) ▾

Welcome home! We missed you!

Landings, a Paulist program to welcome returning Catholics, is a reconciliation process that helps faith communities welcome inactive Catholics who want to take another look at the Church. ***Landings*** trains compassionate laypeople to reach out to those who have been away from the Church for any reason.

Landings offers a safe place to tell one's story, discern a place in the Church, and find a spiritual way home.

Landings
A safe place to tell one's story, to

Living in the Spirit
A new program for those ready to move

Virtual Landings
Tools to return to the Faith in the time

Order Our Program
Join the *Landings* family. Our team will



Importance of Sunday Eucharist

Make Sunday a full parish experience

- Emphasize gathering, particular groupings and celebrations
- Have a focus of welcoming people:
 - think about a “Questions Table”
 - think about welcoming visitors and new people
 - Hospitality after at least one Mass



Parish Should Generate Dynamics of Sharing



Questions?



Contact

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- Paulist Evangelization Ministries
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- Washington, DC 20019
- www.pemdc.org
- www.fpdesiano.com



**PAULIST
EVANGELIZATION
MINISTRIES**