

### **Welcoming the New Parishioner**

Depending on the size of your parish, consider some or all of the following activities to welcome visitors and new parishioners to your parish.

- Trained greeters at Mass make a special effort to welcome strangers or newcomers.
- **Pastor sends a welcome letter and/or makes a personal phone call.**
- **Personal phone calls from Parish Council Members.**
- **Recognize visitors at Mass.**
- **Assign a “sponsoring family” to call and/or visit a new family.**
- **A member of the Welcoming Committee personally visits each new family taking a Welcome Packet and a dessert. Follow-up calls are made no later than two weeks after visit.**
- **Provide a “newcomers basket” with such items as parish note cards, recipe book, calendar, directory, and home baked goods.**
- **Have monthly/quarterly newcomers’ reception or dinner.**
- **Provide a “newcomers packet” of information on the parish as well as community resources. Be sure to include stewardship information.**
- **Have a “welcome desk” before and after Mass.**
- Display a “Book of Welcome” in a prominent place for visitors and newcomers to sign.
- Provide a list of parishioner-owned businesses or services.
- Make it a point to extend a personal invitation to parish activities for the first 6 months.
- Invite newcomers to stand and all pray a “Prayer of Welcome” at Mass.
- **Recognize new members in the bulletin, at Mass, or on with pictures on the bulletin board.**
- Give newcomers a “free ticket” to monthly Knights of Columbus parish breakfast or dinner.
- “Pizza with the Pastor” – an opportunity for newcomers to meet informally with the pastor and parish leaders to ask questions and share their faith journeys.
- “Coffee with the Pastor” provides a way to complete the registration process. Coffee and a light breakfast after one of the Sunday Masses, held in the Rectory, is a way of spending some quiet time with the pastor. Parish leaders are also present.
- **Have a youth minister contact newly registered teens.**