

Tips for Working with the Holy Spirit to Build Up our Communities

1. Work with the Holy Spirit! The Spirit works with us to stir peoples' hearts, invite them into a relationship with the Living God, blow people in our doors, and transform our efforts. Share the good news by inviting others to follow Jesus and experience God's love together.
2. Accepted wisdom was that most new members join because they are personally invited. This is not always true today. Think about recent visitors at your church. How did the Holy Spirit invite them? If you don't know, why not ask them?
3. Facebook and Instagram posts and videos can work to make your church come alive to seekers. Consider paid Facebook advertising – in a local area even \$10 can greatly increase your reach.
4. Use your phone, have a parishioner take photos or short videos, or take selfies. Photos and videos should be authentic, not stock photos: your sanctuary, your choir, your coffee hour. For children and youth always have signed photo releases, and don't post their names online.
5. Outdoor signs should be up to date and include time of services, events, website address, email address, phone number and street address. Your church voice mail greeting should give service times and be updated for special services.
6. Website: Home page should include the days/dates and times of services and events, phone number, email address/contact form and street address, links to your social media and YouTube accounts. Include a 'What to Expect If You're New' tab, and also consider posting two or three sample sermons.
7. Deliver a postcard to households in your parish (or selected postal codes) by Canada Post. Yellow Pages provides a full service, including graphic design: (costs about 32 cents per household for design, printing and delivery): <https://solutions.yip.ca/print/direct-mail>
8. Print simple flyers listing upcoming events and services to hand out at all your events – have someone cheerful greeting visitors and giving the flyers out at the door. Print welcome business cards with church details and service times - give two to each parishioner to share.
9. When guests arrive, personally invite each one to leave information in a guest book or guest box. Try this: "We'd love you to fill out our guest form/book so our priest can pray for you this week." Respond promptly to each guest with an email, a card in the mail or phone call.
10. Set up a process for guest follow-up which addresses: Who will follow up with guests and when? Who will invite these seekers to events or to join a ministry team, and when? How will you keep track of guests? When will they be added to the parish list?

Useful Resources:

Invite Welcome Connect at www.invitewelcomeconnect.com;

Diocesan Congregational Development and Mission Department

www.toronto.anglican.ca/about-us/departments/congregational-development-department/?lang=en

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