

Help ‘Missing’ Catholics Come Home to Jesus & the Mass

by Allan F. Wright

I. “Jesus’ Approach to Inviting Other to Faith” (20 min.)

- A. The Holy Spirit is the director of evangelization and desires to empower us to make the invitation to return to God and His Church.
- B. Evangelii Nuntiandi #19 “...more impressed by witnesses than by teachers.”
 - EX. Roger’s conversion story highlighting when his wife came to the faith not by his words but by putting his love for her in action. No different with us-how is your serve?
- C. Jesus spent three years with disciples before the first “Mass.” Are we willing to accompany people along the journey back to God, to Church?
- D. God is not concerned with our ability but with our availability.
- E. Jesus asked good questions...

We can use these same questions and because they are the Word of God, they still resonate within the human heart. “What are you looking for?” “Do you want to be well?” “Where is your faith?” Explore some of these questions of Jesus as means to evangelization.

II. Personal and Parish Strategies to Reach “Missing” Catholics (25 min.)

- A. The only thing you need to be an expert in...not scripture, not Church history, not liturgy...your own encounter with Jesus! Importance of knowing your story.
 - a. Joyful
 - b. Before Christ, the encounter, how life is different (not perfect but lived in relationship with Jesus Christ.)
- B. Focus on Christ. It is a sin to bore someone with the Gospel.
- C. Leave them wanting to know more.
- D. The seed that fell upon the soil ‘FELL’ it was not nor never should be forced in the soil.
- E. Prayer precedes and permeates the presentation of the Good News.
- F. Trust that the Holy Spirit will use you whenever or wherever (most opportunities are not planned)
- G. The power of invitation – ask for their help, invite to something specific.
- H. People in the 20’s and 30’s (87% of baptized Catholics fall away by the time they’re a young adult.)
 - a. Avoid the word ‘group.’ Implies commitment.
 - b. They yearn for community but fear commitment. Instead of “join our group” ...invite to a BBQ, cookout
- I. Lay out a general ‘Parish Evangelization Plan’ or think smaller... “Prayer group evangelization plan” “Bible Study evangelization plan”

Small groups meet to generate questions for Q and A

Suggested Resources—books by Allan F. Wright:

25 Life-Changing Questions of Jesus [Ave Maria Press](#)

Jesus the Evangelist: A Gospel Guide to the New Evangelization [Franciscan Media](#)

The Bible's Best Love Stories [Franciscan Media](#)

Jesus in the House: Gospel Reflections on Christ Presence in the Home [Franciscan Media](#)

“Daily Companion” series: spiritual reflections for specific groups of people. [Catholic Book Publishing Corp.](#)