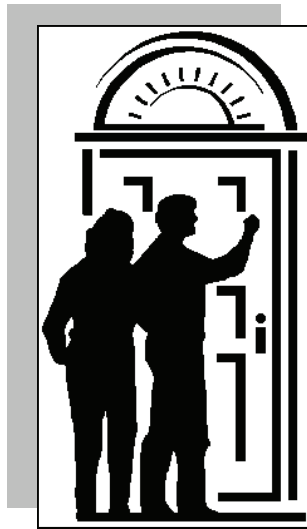


Home Visitation



An Evangelizing Ministry

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Secretariat for Evangelization

“assisting parishes to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ”

Explanation of Booklet

In *Go and Make Disciples*, the U.S. bishops invite all people "to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ." One strategy the bishops suggest is Home Visitation.

The materials in this booklet are the fruits of a Door-to-Door Home Visitation Ministry done in an urban/suburban parish of 2000 registered households. The parish was divided into 7 sections. Two weeks each summer **ALL** of the households in **one** particular section were visited, registered parishioners and non-registered. Depending on the geographical size, the team would visit between 600 and 1000 households each summer. Each team of two visited 25 homes and the visits were done within a two week period.

I invite you to take what is helpful and appropriate to your parish and adapt it to your needs.* (There are additional models from other parishes at the end of the booklet.)

The purpose of a home visitation is first and foremost to make visible the mandate to share our faith. The teams invited unchurched to our faith community and reached out in a stance of reconciliation to inactive Catholics. They established ties with people of other denominations and listened to people's issues, concerns and ideas. Through a questionnaire which was sent to registered Catholics, the parish also create a direction for ongoing ministry in the parish.

Critical to the fruitfulness of the process was the support of: the pastor, pastoral staff and parish community. Preparation and training were also essential elements.

Home visitors attended an information session and one training session. They were paired with someone who had done it previously.

All parishioners were informed of this ministry. The Pastor informed them of the dates which the visits would take place. Each parishioner was given a prayer card to pray every day for the two weeks of the visitation. The prayer was also prayed at the end of Mass each day. The Parish Visitation Team was commissioned just prior to the visits.

Each registered parishioner in that area of visitation was notified through a letter from the pastor. The letter also contained four questions to be discussed when the visitor came to the house. These questions became the springboard for the sharing.

At every home the team asked if there were any needs or concerns that we could bring to prayer. The petitions were then brought to the Sunday Masses and the Parish Prayer Group.

If, after several attempts, a household could not be contacted, the visitors left: a parish brochure, bulletin, and bookmark inviting them to our parish along with a parish contact name.

What happened in the hearts of those visited was often not apparent. But needs were identified and addressed, communication continued with those open to it, friendships emerged, and some became reacquainted and reconciled with God and the Community.

For more information feel free to contact

Sr. Louise Alf, OSF

Coordinator of Parish Evangelization/Archdiocese of Philadelphia
215-587-0547/SRLALFF@adphila.org

***You have permission to duplicate any pages or the whole booklet.**



Sequence of Events for Home Visitation

- ❑ **Determine who you will visit.** (registered, every household, Catholic School families, etc.)
- ❑ **Decide Reasons for Visits**
 - ⇒ Invite inactive Catholics back to the church
 - ⇒ Strengthen registered parishioners
 - ⇒ Gather information to plan for the future
 - ⇒ Pray with parishioners
 - ⇒ Proclaim the Good News of Jesus
- ❑ **Set date for visits**
- ❑ **Send letter to registered parishioners who will be visited (pg. 4)**
- ❑ **Develop a Home Visitation Team**
- ❑ **Offer training for home visitors**
- ❑ **Gather materials for teams (pg. 6)**
- ❑ **Commission Team and pray for this parish missionary effort (pgs. 7, 9)**
Provide prayer cards for all parishioners, read prayer petitions, commissioning all visitors.
- ❑ **Go out and visit**
Gather visitors just before going out. Offer blessing, give materials, assigned houses, remind teams to take good notes on each home they visit, respect confidentiality.
- ❑ **Wrap-Up**
Gather the visitors together at the end. Center it around prayer and a meal. Share experiences. Like “what was most exciting? Most challenging? (Do not share anything of a confidential matter).
- ❑ **Follow-up**
This is crucial to your success. Other ministries and services will benefit from home visitation. Be sure to pass on names and numbers to respective contacts. Possible follow-ups: potential catechumens and candidates to enter the RCIA; those in need of sacramental preparations; inactive teenagers for Parish Youth Group; active Catholics eager to get involved; marriage blessed.
- ❑ **Report**
Write up a report for the Pastor or Pastoral Council. Inform parish of any “good new” stories. Thank parish and prayer partners for their prayers. If your parish has a newsletter, put an article in it.



Letter

Letter from the Pastor to registered parishioners informing them of the Parish Visitation.

Included in the letter:

Parishioner's Input Sheet (pg. 13) and a prayer card (pg. 7)

Dear Parishioner,

Greetings and blessing upon you and your loved ones. It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter informing you of an exciting ministry that will take place at (name of Parish). We are reaching out to the parish community through a door-to-door visitation. Teams of two will go to every home in the area, registered and non-registered. The visitors will be in your neighborhood from (dates). They will be wearing identification badges so that you will know they are from our parish.

As a registered parishioner, the purpose of the visit is to hear how we can better serve you. Enclosed is a sheet that has some questions to help our parish understand your needs. Please look it over and share your responses with the Home Visitation Team.

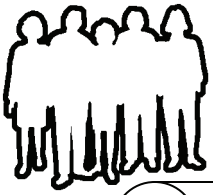
They will also be visiting non-registered homes. The purpose is to inform the community about the parish, answer any questions that may arise, and invite inactive Catholics and those who are not part of any faith community to our parish.

When the Home Visitation Team comes to your door please welcome them. Visiting door-to-door is not an easy task and your kindness can brighten their day. They go out in the name of Christ and the parish. Enclosed is a prayer card that I invite you to pray daily for the next (number of weeks), while the team is doing their visits.

We can never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit, and these personal visits may touch the hearts of some to rediscover God in their lives.

If you have any concerns, feel free to call me at the rectory at . . .

Signed by the Pastor



Developing a Home Visitation Team

I. Recruiting Volunteers

Look for people who:

- are alive in their faith
- Are sensitive to the needs of others
- have good listening skills
- will respect confidentiality

Invite the person to a meeting where Home Visitation will be explained. After they hear the presentation they can decide if they want to be part of the Home Visitation Team.

Never ask a person to decide **before** they know the details.

III. Training Session

- Opening Prayer*
- Thanks for coming
- Explain Purpose for Parish Visitation
- Do a few Home Visit skits (prepared ahead of time)
- Role Play:
 - ⇒ “knock” on each other’s door using sheet: “General Structure for Home Visitation Team”
 - ⇒ Do one liners based on “Possible scenarios”
- Go over procedure for visits
 - ⇒ Forms to fill out
 - ⇒ Materials to take
 - ⇒ Evaluation forms
- Go over time line
- Wrap up gathering
- Invite to Commissioning Service
- Refreshments

II. Information Session Outline

- Opening Prayer*
- What is Home Visitation
- Value of Home Visitation
- Purpose of Visits
- Time Line
- Training provided
- Materials and resources
- Structure:
 - ⇒ Number of homes visited by each team
 - ⇒ Dates for visits
- Question period
- Ask for commitment
- Give date for training
- Provide Refreshments

*Consider these Scripture passages For the Training and Information Sessions

Matthew 10:5-14. The Sending Out of the Twelve. Jesus tells his disciples: where to go, how to go and what to say.

Matthew 13: 31-32. Parable of the Mustard Seed. If we surrender ourselves to the mission God will work through us.

Matt. 18:12. Parable of the Lost Sheep. The Church is about mission, about reaching out to those who are not always part of our faith community.

Acts 9:10-19. Ananias and Saul. Ananias was reluctant because the man he had been asked to visit was prejudiced, tough and hostile. Eventually Ananias went, probably in fear and trembling. His approach was natural, friendly, direct. His message was of Jesus who can open blind eyes and fill an empty life. He found a very practical ministry awaiting him in that house. His obedience was rewarded in the conversion of Saul and his being filled with the Holy Spirit.





Remote Preparation

Materials

The following materials need to be prepared ahead of time

Each visitor needs

- Name Tag with Parish Logo
- Pen
- Note paper
- Assignment sheet
- Prayer to say beforehand
- Magnet
- Parishioners Input
- Prayer Petition Sheet
- Evaluation form

Material to Hand Out at visit

- Bookmarker*
- Parish Bulletin
- Invitation to social
- Tri-fold on parish activities

All Parishioners Need

- Prayer Card to say daily

Order:

- Brochures/pamphlets
- Door-knob bags

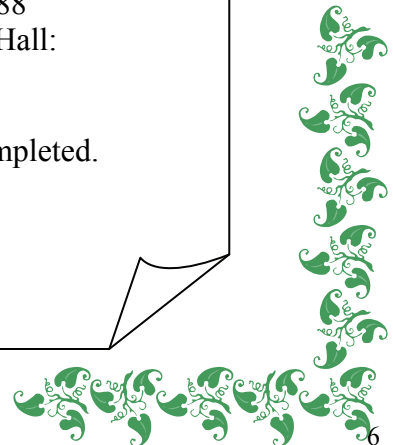
Prayer Support

Prayer Partners

Besides inviting the entire parish to pray, request prayers from:



- the sick and elderly of the parish
- Religious Communities:
 - ✠ St. Clare's, Langhorne: 215-968-5775
 - ✠ Carmelites, Philadelphia: 215-424-6143
 - ✠ Sister of Perpetual Adoration (Pink Sisters): 215-567-0123
 - ✠ Visitation Sisters, Philadelphia: 215-473-5888
 - ✠ Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, Camilla Hall:
610-644-1152

Be sure to thank them when visitation is completed.



Suggested Materials for Home Visitation Ministry

Bookmark given to each household

 <p>PEACE BE TO YOU</p>	<p>Name of Parish Address (location) Phone Website</p> <p>Times of: Daily Mass Weekend Mass Reconciliation</p> <p>Other devotions or information</p> 
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Magnet

	<p>St. Louise Church 222 Maple Street Philadelphia, PA 99999 Phone: 215-999-9999 www.stlouiseparish.com</p>
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Magnets can be backed by magnetic strips obtained from any Office supply store.


Prayer Card for All Parishioners

Parishioners are asked to pray it daily while the Teams are visiting.

<p>Lord, we ask your blessing and guidance on (Parish Name) HOME VISITATION TEAM. As they go in your Name, may they carry with them the prayers and support of our faith community. Let the power of the Holy Spirit work through them to reflect your love, And may the homes that they approach be touched with your gift of peace. Amen.</p> 

Prayer Card for Home Visitors

Teams pray every time they go out.

<p>Lord Jesus, You sent your disciples out two-by-two to continue your mission. We thank you for this opportunity to share your love with all those we meet today. These are your people and you love them unconditionally. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may be an effective channel of your presence. Give us joy and peaceful assurance. We place this endeavor in your hands. Amen.</p> 
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Home Visitors - Assignment Sheet

(This sheet is given to each team. They are assigned 20—25 homes.
The names indicate that the person is registered in the parish.)

Volunteer(s) Name: _____

Street: Emerson

Dates for visitation: _____

Street No.	Name	Call Back	Not Cath.	Inact. Cath.	Act. Cath.	Comments
12						
18	Murphy					
22						
26						
32						
38						
42						
46	Lewinski					
52	Becker					
56						
62						
66						
72	Smith					
76						
82						
86						
92						
96						
98	Neff					
100						

Commissioning Service for Home Visitation Team

Celebrate at weekend Mass just prior to the Visitation

As people enter they should receive a prayer that they are encouraged to pray every day for the next three week.

PRIEST TO THE WHOLE CONGREGATION:

(Parish) is beginning a two-week door-to-door visitation program, to (number of households or name section of the Parish). We do this as a way to hear your concerns, address your needs, reach out to inactive Catholics, and invite the unchurched to be part of a faith community.

The Church reminds us that evangelization is the central mission of **all** believers. Door-to-door ministry is one way in which we do live out this mission. Through Baptism, **everyone** is called to evangelize by sharing our faith with others. So I ask **all of you**, “are you willing to take seriously your baptismal call to love, learn, and share our faith?”

COMMUNITY: We are.

PRIEST TO THE HOME VISITORS:

(Number of volunteers) have responded to the invitation to go out in the name of the Parish. I ask those who have volunteered to be part of this HOME VISITATION ministry to come forward. (face the congregation)

As (Parish Name) HOME VISITATION TEAM you are called to share your faith in a unique and special way. You are called to take Christ and the love of this parish into the homes that you visit. I ask, “are you willing to do this ministry with a spirit of commitment and joy?” (Optional—give them a lit candle, reminding them that they take the light of Christ into all the homes that they visit.)

HOME VISITORS: We are.

PRIESTS ASK THE WHOLE COMMUNITY TO STAND:


Our parish HOME VISITATION TEAM needs our support and prayers as they go forth. I invite you to extend your hands over our PARISH HOME VISITATION TEAM. The prayer that we will pray is on the card that you received when you came into Church. I encourage all of you to pray this prayer daily for the next three weeks for the fruitfulness of this ministry.

Lord, we ask your blessing and guidance on
(Parish Name) HOME VISITATION TEAM.
As they go in your Name,
may they carry with them
the prayers and support of our faith community.
Let the power of the Holy Spirit
work through them to reflect your love,
And may the homes that they approach
be touched with your gift of peace. Amen.

(Priest gives a blessing to the HOME VISITATION TEAM and asks them to return to their seats.)

Script for Home Visitation

Pray with partner before beginning visitation

Smile when greeting the person 

- Hello, my name is (introduce self and partner)
- We're from the parish of . . . (give name and location)
- I hope we are not catching you at a bad time.
- We won't take much of your time.
- Our parish is visiting every home to connect with parishioners, and meet our neighbors. (Optional: we also would like to invite you to an ice cream social to be held . . .)

Unwelcome Reception

If you visit a home and the person does not wish to talk with you, simply say "God Bless you" and walk away.

State your name and purpose immediately. Show nametag as you introduce yourself. Be cheerful, warm and friendly. Engage in light conversation first: how are you today? Chat about the garden, weather, etc.

If they are REGISTERED in your parish

- Perhaps you received the letter from the Pastor saying that we are visiting the parishioners so that we can talk to you personally and hear any concerns or comments you may have about the parish.

Go over the parishioners questionnaire that was sent to them beforehand.

- Invitation to be involved

If you know the person/family is active in the parish, thank them for all they do. If they are not active, this is a good time to engage them in conversation about the good things happening in the parish. Invite them to be involved. If they express an interest, be sure to record their name and pass it on to the parish person responsible for that ministry. Assure the person you are visiting that someone will be contacting them.

- Invitation to Parish Event (optional)

Give invitation and encourage attendance. Try to remove obstacles that would prevent them from coming. (need ride, children invited, fear of not knowing anyone—assure them that you will be there and will look for them.)

- As you know our parish strives to be a community of prayer. Are there any needs that you would like us to pray for? (put on prayer sheet)

- Leave materials

Leave prayer card, bulletin, and any other materials appropriate to that house.

- Thank you for your time and God bless you. (Praying with the person-optional)

Question on Mass Attendance

If the Home Visitor feels comfortable, this question could be asked at the homes of Catholics (registered and unregistered).

"Do you have the opportunity to attend Mass on a regular basis?"
If not, "is there anything we can do to encourage you to come more often?"

Parish Event

Have some upcoming parish event to invite them to, give an invitation to all registered Catholics, inactive Catholics and other homes that are open to the invitation. E.g. ice cream social, night at the movies, speaker (something that is free).

If they are NOT REGISTERED in your parish

- We are visiting every home in this area to get to know our neighbors better and share a little bit about our faith community. Do you mind if I ask if you or anyone living here are Catholic?
(based on answer go to specific area below.)

A. CATHOLIC

- We want to invite you to our wonderful parish. Our parish has . . .
(warm community, great liturgies, sense of the sacred, good music, beautiful environment,, babysitting during Mass, bible study, handicapped accessible . . . Be ready to give two or three strong points)

- Invitation to Parish Event (optional)
Give invitation and encourage attendance. Try to remove obstacles that would prevent them from coming. (need ride, children invited, fear of not knowing anyone—assure them that you will be there and will look for them.)



- Additional questions
 - ◊ Would they like to be registered in the Parish?
leave them a form or phone number and encourage them to become part of the parish.
 - ◊ If they have no desire to register, ask: "Would you like to be on a parish mailing which would be sent out periodically from the parish? (Christmas and Lenten Schedule, other parish events. This is NOT envelopes nor is it a registration to the parish, simply a chance to keep connected.)"

- Our parish strives to be a community of prayer. Are there any needs that you would like us to pray for? (put on prayer sheet)

- Leave materials
Leave prayer card, bulletin, and any other materials appropriate to that house.

- Thank you for your time and many blessings upon you.
(Praying with the person—optional)

Praying With the Person

At the end of each visit, if they are open to prayer, invite them to join you in a short prayer. "Lord, we thank you for this time together. We ask your blessing upon (N). We lift her/his intentions up to you. Fill her/him with your Spirit that she/he may know of your unconditional love. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

B. NOT CATHOLIC

- Are you active in another faith community?

If ACTIVE in another faith community

- ◇ Ask them about their Church, mention any good things you may have heard about that parish (youth programs, social events, ecumenical gatherings)
- ◇ Like your parish, our parish strives to be a community of prayer. Are there any needs that you would like us to pray for? (put on prayer sheet)
- ◇ Leave materials
Leave prayer card and any other materials appropriate to the visit.
- ◇ Thank you for your time and many blessings upon you. Let us continue to pray for one another as we strive to grow stronger in the faith. (Praying with the person—optional)

NOT ACTIVE in any faith community

- ◇ Would you like to know about the Catholic Church? Or do you have any questions about the Catholic faith?
Have some simple informational materials to give. If they show an interest, ask if they would be open to a phone call from someone in the parish as a follow-up to this visit. Be sure to get their correct name and phone number and pass it on immediately to the parish person responsible for this ministry.
- ◇ We would like to invite you to our wonderful parish because . . .
(warm community, convenient Mass times, good music, beautiful environment, bible study, babysitting during Mass, handicapped accessible, etc. Give two or three strong points)
- ◇ Invitation to Parish Event (optional)
Give invitation and encourage attendance. Try to remove obstacles that would prevent them from coming. (need ride, children invited, fear of not knowing anyone—assure them that you will be there and will look for them.)
- ◇ Our parish strives to be a community of prayer. Are there any needs that you would like us to pray for? (put on prayer sheet)
- ◇ Leave materials
Leave prayer card, bulletin, and any other materials appropriate to that house.
- ◇ Thank you for your time and many blessings upon you.
(Praying with the person—optional)

Parishioners' Input

(This sheet is sent to the parishioners with the pastor's letter. It allows registered parishioners who will be visited a chance to think about the questions before the actual visit)

Dear Parishioner,

When the Parish Visitors come to your house, they will be asking for your comments on the following questions. I ask you to think about these questions and jot down any thoughts that will improve our parish. The results of the questions will be given to the Parish Council and Pastoral Staff. Your suggestions will help us create a parish that continues to deepen the spiritual life of the faith community. All comments remain anonymous. I thank you for your interest in the vitality of the Parish.

(Pastor's Name)

-
1. Some areas that (Parish name) should be addressing are (e.g. youth groups, social events, outreach to singles, young adults, babysitting service, justice outreach, etc):

 2. Some ways that (Parish Name) could help people deepen their faith are (e.g. better liturgical music, better homilies, welcoming committee, bereavement committee, Adult Faith Formation, prayer group, etc.)

 3. If you were the pastor and could do anything what would it be . .

 4. Other comments to improve the parish . . .

Prayer Petition Sheet

Each Home Visitation Team has this sheet. As part of EVERY visit they end with:

Our parish strives to be a community of prayer.
are there any needs that you would like us to pray for?

Ask people only for first names so that they can be prayed for personally.

These intentions will be put into a prayer petition book (punch holes in sheets and place in loose-leaf folder and display in the Church.)

- Offer them up at the Intercessions at Mass.
- Give to shut-ins and encourage them to pray for this ministry.
- Request that the Prayer Group (if your parish has one), pray for some of the petitions at their prayer sessions.

Prayer Petitions

First Name only

Intention

First Name only	Intention

Possible Scenarios

SITUATION

POSSIBLE RESPONSE

Why are you visiting me?

Over a two week period our parish is visiting every house in this section of the parish to (give reason for visit: get to meet the neighbors, invite you to a parish social, answer questions you may have about the Catholic Church, etc.)

I am no longer a practicing Catholic.

I am sorry to hear that. For whatever reason you left the Church, I hope you will give us another try. (Name Parish and talk about strong points. Ask if you could put their name on a seasonal mailing list.)

I am angry at the Church because . . .

While divine, the Church is a human institution as well. It is unfortunate that we cause pain to one another. In the name of the Church I apologize and hope that you will join us again.

I am too busy at this time to talk . . .

We certainly understand, could we stop by at another time when it will be more convenient? (if they indicate that they do not want another visit, ask if you can just leave some material).

I am not Catholic but am interested in knowing more about Catholicism . . .

We would like to leave you with some material on the Catholic Church and on our parish. If you like, I could take your name and have someone from the parish contact you.

I am a practicing Catholic but new in the area . . .

We invite you to our parish, which is a great community because . . . Here is our Church bulletin. If you would like to register (explain process).



Evaluation for Home Visitation Team

(This evaluation form is given to all members of the Home Visitation Team. If you are having a gathering, like a pot luck supper at the end of the visitation outreach, encourage them to bring it at that time.)

Evaluation of Home Visitation

Please return to . . . by . . .

1. How prepared did you feel to do the Home Visitation?

very prepared adequately prepared not prepared

Please explain your answer:

2. Did you feel that you had sufficient time to do the visits assigned to you?

3. Were you satisfied with the number of households you were asked to do?

4. Did you pray with your partner first?

5. What are some positive factors of the Home Visitation Ministry?

6. What are some of the challenges of the Home Visitation Ministry?

7. Would you be interested in doing this Ministry again in the future?

yes unsure at this time no

8. Further comments: (additional space on back of sheet)

Name: _____

Letter



Follow-up letter to Catholic non-registered households

This letter is sent as a follow-up to a person who is Catholic and NOT registered but who requested to be on a general mailing list. The pastor or a staff person can send it.

Include in the letter:

the bulletin, a contact number, the bookmark and anything else that may be helpful.

Keep their name in a file and see that they get the Christmas and Lenten Schedule and any other general parish mailings.

.....

Dear . . .

Greetings from (name of parish). A representative from our parish (include visitors name if possible) was at your house on (date). You had indicated that you were Catholic but not registered in our parish. I have taken the liberty of enclosing some information on the parish. I warmly invite you to celebrate with us at one of our Sunday Masses or attend any of our parish functions. Visit our website (put website address) to learn more about our parish.

I hope I have the opportunity of meeting you personally. I have put my phone number under my name. If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance please feel free to call me.

Should you want to register at (Parish Name), call (number) and speak to me or the Parish secretary.

The Parish Community here at (Parish Name) wishes you many blessings.

Peace,

Name
Phone

Other Models of Home Visitation



There is a contact person for each parish if you need any additional information.

St. Albert the Great Parish, Huntingdon Valley.

Parish Contact: Sr. Marie Rachfalski, OSF mskiosf@hotmailcom.

“This year our visitation began on May 21 and ran for three weeks, covering a third of the parish. We visit all registered parishioners, asking if anyone has moved into the neighborhood who might be Catholic. If so, we make a "cold" visit to that house and if agreeable to the newcomer, take their registration on the spot. We distribute something different each year; e. g., a few years ago we had refrigerator magnets with the times of the Masses and Confession. This year we are giving out a pamphlet: *Top Ten Questions Catholics are Asked* published by Our Sunday Visitor. If a non-Catholic member is not affiliated with any church, we give them a paper explaining RCIA and encourage them to "come and see."

St. Anslem Parish, Philadelphia

Parish Contact: Sr. Ruth Mulligan, RSM 215-637-3525

Parish visits a portion of registered parishioners each year, usually in September and early October.

St. Athanasius, Philadelphia: Legion of Mary Model. Parish Contact: Ruth Brown. 215-548-2700

Each team visits 4-5 homes a week. They go door-to-door, inactive Catholics, new registrants and new families in school. Bring results to weekly meetings. Leave brochures: *Why go to Church? Why am I Catholic?*

St. Denis, Havertown, PA. Parish Contact: Donna Leonard: donnaleongard@stdenishavertown.org. 610-446-0200.

Home visitation is done in the fall and spring. Do about 4 areas in the fall and 4 areas in the spring. Entire parish is completed every five years. Have a "Home Coordinator" on each street who is asked to call neighbors and see if they request a visit by the priest or deacon. The visit usually lasts about 30 minutes and then at the end of the night all meet back at the house of the coordinator for a social.

St. Joseph, Downingtown. Parish Contact person: Tom Keenan 610-269-8294/tom@stkeenan.com.

Visits made every month or two on a Saturday morning. Visitors attend the 9:00 Mass and then gather in the Parish Center, paired up in teams, collect the bags that they will be handing out, pray and receive a blessing. All pairs visit the same neighborhood, dividing the houses among them. Visit is brief, friendly, and straightforward. A team member greets the resident, offers a bag containing information on the parish. Asks if he/she has any prayer requests. (Packet contains: information about the parish; *Top Ten Questions Catholics are Asked*; a list of Parish events and a flower. If no one is home, we leave the plastic bag on the door handle.)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Doylestown Parish Contact: Deacon George Corwell. 215-348-4190.

Parish Visitation is done annually in the fall. Parish is divided in half and alternate every other year. This is done in conjunction with the old "Block Collection" but we do not accept donations while visiting the house. Generally it is the priests, deacons and possibly the Pastoral Associate who visit.

Ss. Peter and Paul, East Goshen

Parish contact: Mary Loftus 610-436-9741, loftusmj@verizon.net.

Team goes out once a month on Saturday morning. Morning begins with Mass, holy hour, assignments, assigning of teams. Visit from 10:30 to 12:30. All homes in a certain area are visited and all those visited are invited to an ice cream social the following night.

Sacred Heart, Havertown

Parish Contact: Sr. Rita Devine, IHM: devinerita@hotmail.com. 610-446-0200.

Visit only registered Catholics. Ask the parishioners if they have any suggestions to better the parish. Handouts: a prayer book, the most recent church bulletin, and a stewardship newsletter. Census is update as well.

Some of the models listed here have all of the visitors go out at the same time on a Saturday morning. The time schedule for such a visit could be:

**Home Visitation
(Time: 3 hours)**

1. Gather for prayer or Mass
2. Light refreshments
3. Assign homes
4. Distribute materials
5. Give reminders
6. Blessing from Pastor
7. Go out and visit (2 hours)
8. Return to Church for wrap-up session
9. Closing prayer



Resources

❑ **Doorknob Bags**

ULINE Shipping Supply Specialists 1-800-958-5463

http://www.uline.com/Browse_Listing_105.asp?desc=Doorknob+Bags

Or go on home page; www.uline.com

- click on “Bags, Poly/Plastic”
- click on “Poly Bags”
- click on “Doorknob Bags”

❑ **Scriptographic Booklet** by Channing L. Bete Co. *Faith Guides*

(800-477-4776) www.faithguides.com.

These are a few of the booklet available:

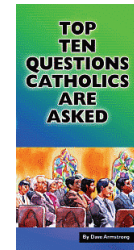
- About Being Catholic, #17202
- Sharing Your Faith, #17848
- Living Your Faith, #19232
- Why Go to Mass? #19794



❑ **Pamphlets** Our Sunday Visitor (800-348-2440); www.osv.com/pamphlets

(Cost: \$14.95 packets of 50)

- Top 10 Reasons to Come Back to Church IDP1
- How to Get More Out of the Mass IDP124
- Top Ten Questions Catholics Are Asked P9
- And more . . .



❑ **Websites**

- Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PNCEA), www.pncea.org. Click on: Evangelization Exchange Archives (January 2007) *Door-to-Door Visits at St. Augustine's in Memphis* Check out other months, they have many articles on parish evangelization.

- Article on Home Visitation

How We Evangelized 50,000 People

by Veronica Frazier. Website:

<http://www.catholic.com/thisrock/1996/9611trch.asp>.



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