How to Get Parishioners Involved in Parish Life

Even the best parishes can become better when parishioners take an active interest in making the parish grow and prosper. This workshop will focus on practical ways to give the people in the pews a sense of ownership of the parish and encourage them to get involved in ministries, organizations, catechesis, evangelization, stewardship, social events and prayer support. When parishioners get involved, amazing things happen!

Opening Activity: Why is this topic important for my parish?

Talk: The challenges of getting people involved. The increase in types of ministries offered to people within and outside the parish, the complexity of parishioners' lives, the lack of parish resources to train and support volunteer ministers and, in some cases, the parishioners' lack of understanding that they are even called to or capable of ministry.

One size doesn’t fit all. Each parish has its own vision, its own mission. What is the vision of your parish? Whose parish is it? The pastor’s? The staff’s? The Parish Council’s? The people’s? Is the parish spiritually vertical or horizontal or both? Is the parish traditional or progressive or somewhere in between?

What is the Parish Mission? How do the parishioners understand stewardship? How does the parish reach out to others? How welcoming is the parish?

How do we reach the parishioners? The importance of recognizing these four styles:

- How does this relate to me?
- What are the facts?
- What can I do this?
- What if we took this to the next level?

Strategies for getting people involved:

- Asking the question: What does God want you to do?
- Identifying gifts
- Inviting personally
- Encouraging relational ministries
- Allocating time slots – one-shots
- Creating New ministries

Four Things that stifle involvement

- Negativity
- Gossip
- Cliques
- Refusal to Change

How to plan and implement an evening of involvement.