

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN—

Parish Evangelizing Activities Survey

As schools reopen every year, the **National Safety Council** reminds parents, children, and youth that before crossing a street, they should **STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN**. These words are good advice to Catholic evangelizers who want to bring new evangelization ideas to their pastor and parish. We are going out into the very busy streets of established parish programs, initiatives, committees, and groups. Take this survey and ask around your parish to see what is being done, how well it is working, and where gaps are in everyday parish evangelizing activities.

Individual Activity

(Interview at least 4-6 active parishioners and 1 or 2 parish staff members, if possible)

Ask them to rate the statements below from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating not happening at all, and 5 indicating yes, done very well. Mark **NA** if this does not apply to your parish's situation. Record their answers on separate copies of this survey.

- _____ We occasionally mail our Church Bulletin or make other mailings to all the households in the parish.
- _____ There is a regular "Visitor's Sunday" or "Open House" so parishioners can bring a friend or relative who is not active in church.
- _____ We make a special welcome to new people at each weekend Liturgy.
- _____ In the church building there is a special place for visitors/new people to sign in or register in the parish.
- _____ We regularly publish a Church Newsletter/Newspaper which we mail to all registered parishioners or to all households in the parish.
- _____ We have a way of identifying new residents in our parish and we reach out to tell them about our parish.
- _____ Programs of the parish (adult faith formation programs, Lenten speakers, special parish services, parish missions or retreats, school and social functions) are advertised in the neighborhood stores, in newspapers, on cable television and radio and via mass e-mails to people.
- _____ Every household in the parish receives a leaflet once a year inviting them to participate in our parish.
- _____ Parish representatives make contact with all hospitalized people who say they're Catholic within the parish's boundaries.
- _____ All registered Catholics are visited regularly in their homes.

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- _____ All homes within the parish boundaries are visited in some way, providing a total parish census. We leave a booklet about the parish, a prayer card or some remembrance with the parish name, address and phone number on it.
- _____ We have a home visitation program for the following groups: kindergarten parents, homebound parishioners, parents of CCD students, family of those in sacramental programs.
- _____ Those who worship at weekend liturgies are greeted at the church doors.
- _____ We have an organized, recognized and advertised parish Evangelization Team or Committee
- _____ In our school we reach out to families who are inactive.
- _____ With regularity we have socials after weekend liturgies.
- _____ At weekend liturgies, we ask for names of people who might welcome a visit from a parish staff member or representative.
- _____ There is group planning about ways to reach out to inactive and alienated Catholics.
- _____ People are encouraged to join the local Separated and Divorced group: we mention when and where they meet.
- _____ Our parish makes use of cable television for a parish-based television program.
- _____ Our parish youth group, senior citizens' group, etc. are open and welcoming, actively reaching out to all neighborhood people.
- _____ The Prayers of the Faithful include the inactive and alienated Catholics, as well as the unchurched.
- _____ Regular intercessory prayer efforts are conducted for the inactive and alienated Catholics.
- _____ Our parish members are regularly encouraged to invite their family, friends, and associates to church activities and Sunday Mass.
- _____ Our parish has at least one ministry that touches upon the felt needs of unchurched people in our area.
- _____ Our parish regularly trains all those and in ministries about how to share their Catholic faith with others in daily life.

Notes:

Reflection Questions for Small Group Sharing—4 or 5 people (25-40 mins.)

1. What evangelizing activities are already taking place in the parish?
2. How well are these evangelizing activities going? How can we collaborate with two or three of the good things that God is already doing among us?
3. Where are there gaps with regard to everyday evangelizing activities in the parish?
4. What two or three evangelizing ideas might we explore and propose to fill in the two most prominent gaps in evangelizing activities in the parish?