

# INVITING PEOPLE TO BE ON ONE OF THE PILLARS FOR THE FAMILY OF PARISHES (FOP)

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## **WHAT WON'T WORK:**

- Bulletin appeals
- Fuzzy explanations
- Pleas from the pulpit
- Intimidations
- Picketing their home

## **WHAT WILL WORK:**

- Prayer
- Good preparation
- Clear explanation
- Invitation to “come and see”
- Touching their “self-interest”

## **WHY PEOPLE VOLUNTEER:**

- Meet more people
- Make a difference in the world
- Addresses a spiritual hunger
- Develop their gifts

## **WHY PEOPLE TEND NOT TO VOLUNTEER:**

- No one asked them personally
- Don't know the scope of the job
- Don't “own” the cause
- Feel untrained, ill-equipped, ungifted
- Fear the responsibility

## **BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THE PILLARS:**

- Be part of a new endeavor
- Help shape the future of the FoP
- Their giftedness in this area
- Work with an incredible team
- Help unite the FoP

## **BEFORE YOU ASK ANYONE:**

- Believe in the project
- Understand the mission of that pillar
- Determine what skills are needed for that pillar
- Know the time line and commitment



## **I. SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

- The pastor, key leaders and “pew” parishioners who know people (from each parish), gather together to “brainstorm” names of possible parishioners for each pillar.
- List all 6 pillars on newsprint.
- As names are surfaced decide which pillar they should be under. (Do not duplicate names under the pillars)
- List all of the names that are raised.
- Determine how many people you want under each pillar (5-7 people which includes representative of all the parishes within the family. Also, a few staff people can be on each team if appropriate.)

## **II. INVITING VOLUNTEERS**

- Personally contact each person individually to attend a “come and see” presentation on this pillar. (Determine who is the best person to do the inviting.)
- Invite them to a “come and see” presentation on the particular pillar.
- Suggested dialogue when approaching a possible volunteer:

*“Hi, (name), as you know our parish is beginning the process of forming a Family of Parishes under the Road to Renewal diocesan endeavor. The pastor and we know, that in order for this to be effective, we need good teams to work on the 6 pillars. Your name came up as a person with the gifts we feel are needed for the pillar on (name the pillar). I know you don’t know much about it but there will be a meeting to explain this on (date, time, place). I am hoping you would be willing to attend this meeting to learn more about this new endeavor. After you hear about it, then you can decide if you feel it is something that you would like to be part of at this time. At this one hour meeting we will talk more about the task of this pillar, the time commitment and meet some of the other potential volunteers.*

- Meeting with potential volunteers for the pillars:
  - ⇒ Begin with Renewal prayer
  - ⇒ Explain clearly, with enthusiasm, the purpose of the pillar, the task, the time commitment.
  - ⇒ Invite questions.
  - ⇒ Have quiet time for reflection.
  - ⇒ Ask for a commitment.

## **III. RETAINING VOLUNTEERS**

- Run efficient meetings (don’t waste their time)
- Keep to time commitment
- Communicate (use email lavishly)
- Seek their advice
- Respect their personal life and other commitments
- Model community