



Catholics coming back to Mass after Christmas?

They say there are three questions a person will ask you when you are calling for change from that person. The first question to answer is: "Why do I need to change?" The second is: "What's in it for me?" The third is: "What are you going to do to help the change happen?"

So when we invite people to Mass at Christmas and hope that they will come back again in following weeks, we need to understand that to attend Mass again is a huge change for your average person. How many things do you now do regularly every week that you have not done before? Not many, perhaps not any, I would guess.

Let's say that the change you ask a person to take up is to ask them to play each week in a touch football team. They ask and you answer...

"Why do I need to change?"

"Because you, like everyone else, needs to have physical exercise to be well."

"What's in it for me?"

"You will feel much better as you get fitter, have fun and meet great people all at the same time!"

"What are you going to do to help the change happen?"

"I will pick you up and drop you off each week, as I go past your place!"

So now if we ask at Christmas for a person to come to Mass each week, what are the answers that they will need if we are to persuade them to make that significant change? These could be the answers in a parish:

"Why do I need to change?"

"Because you, like everyone else, needs to revive your spiritual life and have true meaning in your life. Being a part of the Church will give you that opportunity."

"What's in it for me?"

"You will find in Mass in our parish a real experience of God and meet great people all at the same time! You will also find other parish experiences you will enjoy like social events, learning about faith and opportunities to care for people in need. You will also help your children to have a better rounded, more fulfilled life."

"What are you going to do to help the change happen?"

“I will speak to you after Mass, then invite you to have lunch at my place with other parishioners so you will get to know people, and also help you get involved in a ministry you would like. Having friends and becoming involved will help you feel at home in the parish.”

Try the questions for yourself. What are your answers in your parish? Do you and your parish have the support in place to care for a person who comes back to Mass? If not, can you learn how to reach out to new attendees, so that they can make what is a very significant change in their lives?

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