

Spiritual Adoption

Msgr. Charles Pope is a Pastor in DC. Some years back he proposed to his parish this concept of Spiritual Adoption. Recognizing that each of his parishioners, like all of you, know at least five members from among their family, friends or co-workers who need to come to God's house, either because they have fallen away or never come to the Church at all. And it is time for us to go to work and shepherd them back. Over the next year, we encourage you to take time to reflect on who that person might be and then make a commitment to the Lord that you will work to bring them home.

What the Parish will offer:

1. Every Wednesday 7am Mass will be offered for those spiritual adoptees
2. A variety of resources will be available for you to share with friend/family.
3. Different parishioners will share their own personal testimony of how they have come to faith and help each of us to learn how to share our own stories of faith.
4. After Christmas, we will offer ongoing Adult Formation that will give you some guidance on how to guide people in a loving discourse towards returning home.

What you are asked to do:

1. Pray and discern. Ask the Lord, "Who do I know and will be able to gently lead back to you?"
2. On the 2nd Sunday of Advent, commit to spending this next year praying, fasting, befriending and drawing closer and meeting with this person. You will be asked to write their first name on a card that will be collected and placed near the altar as we offer a Mass each week for all of them.
3. Pray daily for your adoptee
4. Offer regular fasting for your adoptee
5. Be intentional about being in contact with them at least every couple weeks. Talk with them and listen. Find out how they fell away from the Church or why they have never gone in the first place. This is also the place to share your own story as well.
6. As time goes on, invite them to Church functions. That might be a bible study, dinner, or Sunday Mass. And perhaps as they express interest, invite them to Mass regularly or encourage them to consider RCIA or Catholics Returning Home.