

What can we do to drive people away?

- **Spiritual**
 - Not meet their spiritual needs
 - Communion under both species
 - Make them feel that mass is an obligation rather than a joy – the highlight of their week
- **Right fit**
 - Fail to explain what is happening
 - Shun ideas
 - Do not what we say we are going to do
 - Invite those who won't fit into that particular group
 - Forget that they are brand new and may not understand group fully
 - Fail to explain how we do things
 - Ignore suggestions
 - Not listen to new ideas
 - No value to ideas or suggestions given
 - Not provide needed services
- **Logistics**
 - Don't start or finish on time
 - Mumbling during talks
 - Not keep meetings on task – waste people's time
 - Be unclear about logistics – time of day, day of week, duration
 - Unfamiliar rules and expectations
 - Use unwritten rules and cultural boundaries that make getting involved tough
- **Invitation and follow-up**
 - Act like we would rather not be there of could care less
 - No cookies
 - Not seem like you want them to be there
 - Not introduce them to the group
 - Not speak to the new people in the group – not acknowledging them
 - Not smile or acknowledge that they are there
 - Treat people like outcasts
 - Ignore them
- **Participant behavior**
 - Gossip
 - Too much gossiping
 - “Cliquish” groups
 - Make mean faces – body language
 - Ignore
 - Exclude
 - No greetings
 - Make them feel insignificant
 - Speed by them

How do we make someone feel at home?

- **Spiritual**
 - Pray together
- **Right fit**
 - Listen to ideas
 - Listen to new ideas
 - Listen
 - A good leader that knows how to encourage participation & control overachievers
 - Understand the rules & expectations
 - Explain things – there's always someone new there
- **Invitation and follow-up**
 - Welcome visitors from the lectern – either lector or priest
 - Welcome all new persons & guests at each mass – commentator job
 - Name tags Name tags Name tags
 - Remember names
 - I introduce myself which usually opens people up
 - Introduce in the beginning of the meeting
 - Finding common ground – asking questions – answering questions
- **Participant behavior**
 - Thank them for coming, call if they have questions
 - Sense of appreciation
 - Smile – hello
 - Call by name
 - Acknowledge by name
 - Being called by name
 - Please & thank you
 - Notice if someone was not present
 - Warm greetings
 - Cookies
 - Have fun
 - Basic manners
 - Having someone show/tell me where to go, what to do, how to feel at home
 - Knowing other participants
 - Act like you want to be here and they want to be a part of it too
 - Make relationships
- **Logistics**
 - Start & stop on time
 - Getting a summary if I missed the meeting – Keeping me up to date
 - Understanding the process – what's the plan

What can we do to get someone to come to their first meeting?

■ Spiritual

- Back up and get them to **want to** participate
- Pray for them
- Think of it as a “small step” the stewardship way of life
- Find Joy in participating in mass

■ Right fit

- Mention some people in the group and see if they know any of them
- Find a natural fit for them
- Find friends of theirs there
- Cookie Cookies
- Share with them about the ministry and how it helps the parish community or the community at large

■ Logistics

- Tell them what to expect
- Go along with them
- Pick them up
- Bring them
- Make sure they know when the meeting is
- Tell them how long it will last

■ Invitation and follow-up

- Ask them to come and check it out, and if they feel it is not for them, it is okay
- Reassurance that they are not committed forever
- Tell them they are wanted and needed
- Call and invite – ask if they will be able to make it
- Ask if you can count on them being there
- Follow-up with original invitation – call the day of the meeting
- A follow-up call to find out if they felt welcome and enjoyed it