



Essential Evangelization

Catholics Come Home

Do you know someone who has fallen away from the Catholic faith of their youth? A relative, friend, neighbor or co-worker? Recent studies have shown that 90 percent have simply been drawn away from the Church by social influences. They have drifted away due to work weekend demands, falling away in college, or from a temporary allure, problem or temptation. They simply got caught up in a subculture that does not emphasize or celebrate the importance of religious faith.

A very good US based evangelization program that is catching on is using the Internet and television to bring Catholics back to the Church. Tom Peterson, a Knight of Columbus originally from Phoenix, Arizona, started the Catholics Come Home apostolate in 1999. The program now includes an Internet Web site, CatholicsComeHome.org, and has recently been adopted by many dioceses in an effort to appeal to estranged parishioners. The website is very well organized and includes animations, video testimonials and stories of real people whose lives were changed as a result of returning to their Catholic faith. As a result of this program, thousands of parishioners have returned to Mass and Reconciliation and one parish even reported more than 100 people enrolled in their RCIA Program. One woman for instance stopped going to church 46 years ago because of a divorce – she thought she was excommunicated! The ministry is planning to air nationally on major US networks during popular secular programming, and has even been blessed by the Vatican and the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. There is also a free book offer, *Rediscovering Catholicism*, on the website along with a “Parish finder.”

We can all make an effort to reach out to our estranged Catholic brothers and sisters. We can also pray for them and a revival of our Catholic faith. Check out the Catholics Come Home ministry and direct friends and loved ones that may need help “coming back home” to CatholicsComeHome.org.

“If we really reflect on God’s number one priority, it would be to bring as many souls to heaven as possible.” Tom Peterson, founder who now resides in Roswell, GA

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
Evangelization Committee*