



January 31, 2010

Dear Parishioners,

In a few weeks the season of Lent begins. And during Mass a few weekends ago, Carla Loucks (Director of the RCIA and Adult Faith formation at OLL) spoke on **Catholics Come Home**, ([www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)). It's an evangelization campaign the Seattle Archdiocese will implement from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Commercials will air more than 3,000 times on television broadcasts. Their purpose is to reach out to lapsed Catholics and welcome them back, as well as to help many others see the invaluable gift the Church has been and continues to be.

In the Catholic Northwest Progress there was a related article recently called, "Welcoming lapsed and 'episodic' Catholics home". In it, Paulist Father Frank DeSiano commented on our current evangelization and outreach to such Catholics saying that "the key is a sense of welcome, rather than judgment, and the presence of people with whom they can bond."

At Our Lady of the Lake Parish we try to foster this "sense of welcome" in the liturgy and beyond. At the 9:30 Mass, we now have Greeters at the doors of the Church to welcome people as they arrive. And before Mass begins, we stand and greet one another. My hope is to eventually implement these changes at all the Masses. Consistently, visitors comment on just how welcoming OLL is as a parish.

People have drifted from the Catholic faith or left the Church altogether for a variety of reasons: from benign neglect to issues of a more serious nature that need to be addressed with greater attention and concern. I do not believe a media 'blitz' will have lasting impact *unless* we consistently live our faith with "a sense of welcome rather than judgment" toward all: those within and those outside the Church. It is this practice that most mirrors the compassionate posture of Christ we see on nearly every page of the Gospels.

Sincerely,

Father Tim Clark  
Pastor