HELP YOUR PARISH

share the perfect gift

THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

THE WARM WELCOME AND EMBRACE INTO PARISH LIFE

Melissa Overmyer, Founder "Something Greater Ministries"

How are we accompanying people into parish life? From their first encounter with our community to a lasting friendship. Consider these moments of opportunity to make our visitors feel welcome and so prepare their hearts to receive the Good News of Christ:

1. **Furthest point out** – Website – Is it beautiful and exciting? Think about a party invitation. Remember we are inviting people to the GREAT FEAST!

2. **Walking up to parish** – How is your signage? Are your Mass/Sacramental times displayed? Consider attractive and inviting banners to communicate with the wider community.

3. **Walking in the door** – Greeters – Who is actually welcoming new visitors? Perhaps a family of parishioners could volunteer to welcome people each week! Besides handing them information, greeters should be smiling, welcoming faces making a personal connection.

4. **Sitting in the pews** – What do they See – Can people see what's going on? Are lighting updates needed? Consider what the environment of your Church says to visitors. Is this just another church or a place where a family comes to encounter God?

5. **Listening to the service** – What do they Hear – Can they hear you? Consider the music, announcements, and homily visitors are hearing. Can they hear it at all? Are the announcements clear and inviting or just a list of programs with confusing titles? Can visitors easily sing along to your music? Are the lyrics easy to find?

6. **After the service** – Hospitality – When we normally think of hospitality we think of coffee and doughnuts. How can we grow those moments of fellowship? Lunch? Weekly gatherings such as RCIA and small groups? Do these gatherings include time to talk and share our faith person to person?

7. Consider how these ideas fit into a long term vision of evangelization and talk to Anthony about qualifying for the **ADW Evangelization Grant Program** to support your efforts!

8. **PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE** – We have 6 short weeks between Christmas and Ash Wednesday! What are you doing to keep those visitors engaged in between?

9. **PRAY!** Ask for the LORD to come and set your Parish ablaze with His love.