



THE BLUEPRINT FOR HOSPITALITY

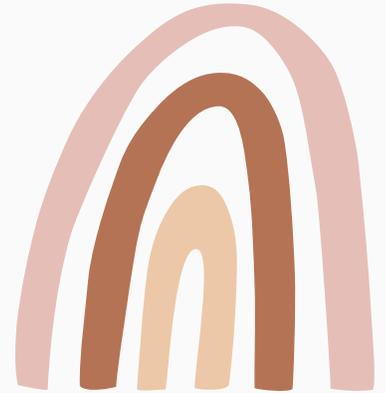
RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH WELCOME

FIELDBOOK

OCTOBER 2020

Relationships begin with welcome!

Ministry is all about relationships and the secret to parishes and faith communities that are thriving. How do relationships come about in a parish community? How do we nurture, develop and affirm relationships? How can we do all this in the midst of a pandemic? Have no fear.



Relationships are the foundations of powerful faith formation that is deep, moving, and transformative.

Where to spend our time and energy

- Intentionally making time for relationship-building
- Affirmation and encouragement
- Reaching out into the community to serve needs
- Nurturing volunteers and ministry teams
- Remembering and acknowledging key moments in the lives of our people
- Approaching parish life and ministry with joy, hope, energy, and abundance



Spend time with your people.
Pray with and for them.
Listen deeply.
Respond with a glad heart.

Scripture has something to say about relationships! Jesus had friendships that ran deep - Lazarus, Martha, Mary and the disciples. Then, too, there is the early Church holding true to this vision.

Making time

To build relationships, we need time. If we really want to get to know people, we have to spend time with them, break bread together, listen, help in times of need, rejoice and celebrate, and be honest, open and vulnerable.

For ministry leaders, there isn't enough time in the day to do this for every single person in the parish.



Growing Relationships

Gather a team.

There are volunteers, ministry leaders, staff, core teams, and others who make up those who keep the parish up, running and doing well. These are your people.

Train the team.

Equip and train your team to listen, affirm, encourage, offer hospitality.

Equip them to pray and to share their faith story.

Equip them to connect to others in the parish community.

Equip them to offer treats, gifts, notes, and symbols of caring.

List the ways you make time for relationships

Conversation

Weigh-in on how you do relational ministry.

- What are your worries today without business as usual?
- What have you been doing during this time that has kept people connected?
- What will you not want to give up after this time of isolation?
- What do you miss most about how you used to do ministry?

As a disciple, you are called...

- To create an environment where people feel welcomed, loved, where they can trust and be vulnerable.
- To grow disciples of your leaders and through them – those they minister to and with, so that they do the same at home, work, school and beyond.
- To adapt as change occurs. We have done things a certain way for so long, but now something new is asked of ministry leaders.
- To lead change by being more explicit, direct, bold and creative and hopeful!
- To give people what they hunger for: affirmation, encouragement, purpose, and meaning. It is all relational ministry!

thoughts:



Field-work



We need to do the work of relationship-building if we want our community to do the same. So, we have a few ideas for you to do this month. Do any or all - and invite others to join you. You will make a difference in just 30 days - we promise!

- Invite someone out for safely-distanced coffee or tea. This should be someone you've been wanting to get to know a little better or someone that could use a little more time, encouragement or up-lifting.
- Send out the postcard or poster from Ministry Blueprints - choose family, friends, neighbors, ministries, staff, or anyone else who might like a reminder that you thought of them.
- Take a look at all the possible places right now in your parish community that could use a hospitality makeover! Invite a group to brainstorm on how to begin making some changes to your regularly scheduled programs.
- Think of 5 ways to offer hospitality to your family this month and put them in your calendar to actually do. Invite someone to hold you accountable.
- Join Ministry Blueprints on **October 22 at 11:00 am CT** for a Facebook Live check-in. We are here for you - and know you need a community that encourages, listens, and brainstorms with you!
- Take a look at the work you've been called to; how is God asking you to make those you serve feel welcomed, wanted and know that they belong?

"May you renew your trust each day in the working of the Holy Spirit and open your heart to new inspiration and new gifts. On this life's journey may you be effective in good works and rich in the gifts of hope, faith and love."

St. Francis of Assisi, Blessing for Ordinary Time