

# Best Practice Worksheet

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Best Practice:

Welcome Wine and Cheese Reception for New Parishioners

## Purpose of Best Practice:

To welcome and include new parishioners into the life and activity of the parish.

## Process of Practice:

**(Who's involved, what is being done, why it is being done and how is it being done.)**

Quarterly, the pastor, ministry staff and ministry leaders invite new parishioners to a wine and cheese reception. At the reception, members of the parish choirs form a small band to provide musical background entertainment for the reception. Pastor and parish leaders mingle and make connections with the new parishioners. Midway through the reception, there is a brief overview of the parish and an invitation to the new parishioners on ways they can be involved. Following the presentation, there is more mingling and opportunities for new parishioners to speak directly to staff and parish leaders about programs or to share their needs.

## What is the time frame or schedule for this practice:

Quarterly receptions – February, May, August, and November  
6:00 – 7:30 PM on the first Friday of the month.

## What is the outcome of this practice:

- New parishioners met one another, many developing friendships and connections with one another.
- Identity of new parishioner being part of the parish family.
- Connected parishioners with programs for their benefit.
- Increase of people involved in parish ministries.

# Best Practice Worksheet

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

## Description of Best Practice:

Seasonal meeting of pastor with parish choir directors.

## Purpose of Best Practice:

To support and strengthen the choral aspect of Sunday liturgies

## Process of Practice:

**(Who's involved, what is being done, why it is being done and how is it being done.)**

Prior to each liturgical season, the pastor and choir directors meet. The meetings would begin with a time of check-in, how each choir is doing. Following the check-in, the pastor leads the directors in using Lectio Divina on the gospel of the season. After prayer, the pastor would do a brief teaching on the season and lead a discussion on the themes of the season. From the themes, the choir directors would brainstorm what settings, psalms and songs would be appropriate for the season. They come to an agreement on the Mass setting for the season which all choirs will use and a list of psalms and songs all choirs will choose from.

## What is the time frame or schedule for this practice:

Meetings occurred four weeks before the beginning of:

- Advent for the seasons of Advent
- Christmas for both Christmas and the beginning of Ordinary Time
- Lent for Lenten Season
- Easter for Easter Season
- Pentecost for Ordinary Time

Meetings would be on an agreed upon evening from 6:00-8:00 pm

## What is the outcome of this practice:

- A Sense of community among the choir directors which lead to a sense of community among the choirs.
- Consistency of music through all the Sunday liturgies, especially the Mass setting.
- More participation of the assembly in the music of the Mass.