



Inviting Parishioners to Serve on the ARISE Parish Team

Possible Group Discernment Process

- Arrange a meeting with lay leaders and parish staff. The purpose of this meeting is to identify people to invite to be *ARISE* parish team members.
- Begin the meeting with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.
- Distribute copies of Handout 2, “The *ARISE* Parish Team: Roles and Responsibilities” and discuss its content.
- Brainstorm possible *ARISE* parish team members.
- Identify more candidates that the eight to twelve needed for your parish team.
- Determine who will personally invite the prospective team members.
- Experience shows that overall response is often better if the pastor is the inviter, but everyone on the team needs to invite. The inviters should be prepared to discuss
 - the specific reasons for their being invited (for example “Your name was suggested because you are someone who gets tasks done ... whom people trust,” etc.)
 - the *ARISE* process (see *ARISE* trifold)
 - the value of the *ARISE* process to the parish and to individual parishioners (see Handout 6, “Key Reasons for Signing Up for *ARISE*”)
 - an overview of the responsibilities of the *ARISE* parish team (see Handout 2, “The *ARISE* Parish Team: Roles and Responsibilities”)
- Choose a date for the first meeting with all those who respond positively.

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Considerations for Inviting Parishioners to be Members of the *ARISE* Parish Team

- Choose people who are credible, can motivate others, and are willing to give their time and energy to the *ARISE* process.
- Do not limit your search to those who are already participating in parish life. Seek people with natural ability in various areas:
 - parents of religious-education students or school children, providing these parents are not already overcommitted
 - people who have become members of the parish in the last year or two
 - those recently initiated into the Church
 - parents of those who have been baptized or received first Communion in the last few years
 - relatives, friends, and neighbors you identify by asking active parishioners
 - potential leaders who are not well known (e.g., young adults) whom you will meet while greeting people before Mass
 - Catholics who are leaders in the community, but who may not have active roles in parish life
- Realize that active parishioners whom you consider to be overburdened may want to become involved in this exciting spiritual *ARISE* process. (To do this they may have to let go of something they are already doing.)
- Personal contact with the prospective candidates is essential. Face-to-face contact is always the most effective.
- Consider how you will motivate each person you reach out to. You are asking this person to be of service, to invite adults and young adults to have an opportunity to meet interesting people, to find deeper meaning in their personal lives, and to have a rich spiritual experience.
- Be courageous, enthusiastic, and filled with strong conviction in making these contacts. Pray, and rely on God's Holy Spirit within you.

Perspective

While being highly idealistic in your search for *ARISE* parish team members, remember Jesus chose twelve ordinary people. It could be argued that they may not seem to have had outstanding leadership qualities, but they did have natural goodness. When they were empowered by the Holy Spirit, wondrous things happened through their ministry. Experience has shown that God wishes to do remarkable things through ordinary people.

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