

## Best Practices in Welcoming a New Priest, New Families or New Cultures Suggestions from Diocesan Pastoral Council – November 2019

### 1. At the parish level, what are we already doing or what could we do to be more welcoming towards new families?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A membership committee contacts new parishioners and visits them in their home.</li> <li>• A member of the PPC should be taking the initiative to talk to newer parishioners: “how are you?”</li> <li>• More greeters/ushers at the door to meet people.</li> <li>• Saying hello at mass; inviting them to breakfast/lunch, social events</li> <li>• Finding out their interests, ministries, needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did they choose your parish?</li> <li>• Families in need, no charge for parish events</li> <li>• Mixing with other cultures, letting them take the lead</li> <li>• Recognizing new parishioners</li> <li>• Respecting their culture and the way they do things</li> <li>• Inviting them to social events and including them</li> <li>• Welcoming everyone at mass also welcomes newcomers</li> </ul>
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### 2. At the parish level, what are we already doing or what could we do to be more welcoming towards a new priest?

\*new priest: a new international priest who arrives, a newly ordained priest or a priest who receives a new appointment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome potluck or breakfast</li> <li>• Official welcome before mass</li> <li>• Potluck (for CPP, FC).</li> <li>• Personal check-in with priest (rectory) 1-1</li> <li>• Inviting priest to meetings, social events, homes</li> <li>• Priest “serves” at breakfasts</li> <li>• Individual family takes priest out for lunch after mass</li> <li>• Cleaning rectory before arrival</li> <li>• Inviting the priest to parish lunches/events</li> <li>• Having a community contact list</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respecting his diet</li> <li>• Welcoming him into our homes</li> <li>• Giving him warm clothing</li> <li>• Checking up on the priest for emergencies</li> <li>• Providing the priest with the parish photo directory</li> <li>• Inviting the priest for supper</li> <li>• Providing an introductory bio of the priest to the parishioners (maybe publish in the bulletin) and a bio of the parish to the priest</li> <li>• Taking the priest to a Bombers/Jets game</li> <li>• Providing the priest with local foods</li> </ul>
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### 3. At the parish level, what are we already doing or what could we do to be more welcoming towards new cultures or ethnic groups?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural themed dinner or social gatherings</li> <li>• Representation on PPC</li> <li>• Visible ethnic groups welcoming parishioners</li> <li>• Highlighting different languages at Mass (example: Christmas Eve Mass)</li> <li>• Recognizing ethnic cultural Catholic practices (ex: Polish Easter baskets, Filipino novena masses)</li> <li>• Cultural cooking classes for each ethnic group</li> <li>• Learning a few phrases in their language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potluck with food from their culture</li> <li>• Taking them to mass in their own language/culture</li> <li>• Welcome dish/meal, inviting them to your home</li> <li>• Inviting them to non-parish community events</li> <li>• Hosting a mini Folklorama in the parish</li> <li>• Bringing them to diocese celebrations</li> <li>• Special field trips (\$\$, transportation barriers) – Transcona, Gimli, The Forks, the beach, the zoo</li> <li>• Including the sponsored refugee family in church social events</li> </ul>
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