



A Priest's Guide

ANNOUNCE

- Beginning Labour Day, up until Back to Church Sunday, include the tip sheet for inviting someone back to church.
- Each week have you or (ideally) a lay leader speak to one of the tips.
- If you have the technology, show one of our Back to Church Sunday videos. Visit the Diocese's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/tordio135> and scroll down to find the video for Back to Church Sunday.

PRAY

- Beginning Labour Day up until Back to Church Sunday, pray for this event on Sunday mornings. Ask your lay intercessors to include this as part of their intercessions.
- What to pray for: pray for courage to invite; pray for those we are going to invite. (Intercessors may want to allow a moment of silence to allow people to pray for the person whom they are planning to invite.)

REMEMBER AND REHEARSE

- Find ways, during meetings, Sunday announcement time, a sermon or a testimony, to remind people that many of them are in church because someone invited them. Remembering how we, too, were once invited can help us find courage to invite others.
- Practice inviting each other! Make it light-hearted. During announcement time, demonstrate issuing an invitation to a friend; ask parishioners to practise with each other.



"Success is this: one person inviting one person. Success is not one person inviting one person and then saying yes or no. The yes or no is God's bit. Our bit is just the invitation. What we have to do with our congregations is to take the pressure off. It doesn't matter if someone says no. Success has been the actual invitation."

Michael Harvey

PROCLAIM

- Convince parishioners that inviting people to church is a good and a God thing. Some priests do so during a presentation at a special meeting, others preach a sermon on the topic. For sermon ideas and sample PowerPoint presentations, go to the B2CS resources page, under www.toronto.anglican.ca/backtochurch.

DEFINE SUCCESS

- Many parishioners feel like failures if the person they invite doesn't come to church – and then they never risk inviting again! But success is not the yes or the no. Success is making the invitation.