

I'm going to have you fill out a survey today, so my homily will be very brief. Back in October, 2016 when I last asked you to fill out this survey one of the findings was that some of you didn't feel recognized at the parish. That included both recognition of your contributions, but also not feeling welcome and known here.

So, my homily is about one of the fruits of the survey -- the forming of the Welcoming Team in 2017 (see, we do pay attention to the survey!). I hope you were welcomed by one of the team on the way inside today (unless you came in the welcome-free door back there). But if not, that brings me to the topic of this short homily.

We need more Welcomers. It takes 120 people to cover all the doors each month. As with all ministries, there is attrition over time as people move away, etc. We're having a hard time getting enough Welcomers. So, we need your help. A few weeks ago I shared with you a couple of e-mails from visitors I had received recently, thanking Holy Family for being such a warm place. In just two years the Welcomers

have become an important part of our parish community. As fellow members of the Body of Christ we need to feel welcomed and recognized as individuals. You can help with this.

One of the biggest turning points on the journey of a Discipleship is when a person goes from only passively receiving from the Church, to giving back to others. Many come to mass and receive the Sacraments, the Word, and, I hope, community, but it never occurs to them that they're able themselves to contribute to the ministry of the parish. It's intimidating to take that first step.

But the Welcome Team is a great entrance-level way to do that. You don't have to be an extrovert. All you do is smile and welcome people coming through the door. You'll be trained how to respond if they have questions. You might occasionally be asked to hand out items before or after mass. It's not burdensome (just once per month), but it is important, and it makes an impact on people's spiritual lives. Please fill out a sign-up card found in the pews and drop it in the basket at the

collection. There will be people in the narthex after mass to answer questions.

Now, back to the survey. We're taking it again because I want to know what's changed since 2016. It's difficult to improve what you don't measure. If you're not a parishioner, please don't fill out the survey. But if you are a parishioner and 18 years or older, please help us by taking this time to let us know your opinion. Be honest. The survey is anonymous. Note: the survey has two sides. The surveys are at the end of the pews, and the ushers have other copies. I'll give you a few minutes, and the ushers will collect them at that time.