

## Catholics Coming Home

A special invitation for all inactive Catholics to come home. We missed you!

Home. It is a place we all long for. We idealize it – a place of safety, where we can be ourselves. Yet home for most of us is not like that. It is a place where we love, discuss, discover, rejoice, cry, get angry. It is a mixed bag of life lived with all its ups and downs. But it is *ours* – our home.

Our Church Community of Faith is similar. It is our compass that points us in the right direction. It is a place where we love, discuss, discover, rejoice, cry, get angry over issues of our faith, over the injustices of the world. Here we form bonds to journey together. Through our baptism we become sisters and brothers in Christ and members of the local and universal Church. It is our home in faith.

Like all families we have our differences. Sometimes something happens and we are no longer connected, related. We drift away from seeing one another, or someone says something and we are left hurting. Sometimes we find it difficult to believe everything that is taught. People leave the church for these and many other reasons. Leaving the ‘church’ is leaving us, the people of God. This leaves a hole in our soul. This leaves an empty space at our table. We are not complete. All of our brothers and sisters are not here.

We would like to invite those who have left to come home. There is no obligation. There will be no pressure. This is an opportunity to share your stories of why you left and where you are now. We would like to hear your stories and share our stories of faith with you.

Several times a year our parish community extends an invitation to our inactive brothers and sisters to explore the possibility of coming home.

The process will include six sessions on such topics as concepts of God and Jesus, the Church, the Bible, Catholic values, Conscience Formation, and Sacraments. But mostly, the sessions are about listening to your experience and honoring your journey.

We know that Sacred Heart Church has something to offer. We look forward to seeing you.

If you have questions, please call Sister Pat @ 264-5071.

# **Catholics Coming Home**

By Carrie Kemp

## **SYLLABUS**

SESSION 1: WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE CHURCH?

SESSION 2: CONCEPTS OF GOD AND JESUS AND THE CHURCH

SESSION 3: FAITH AND CONVERSION

SESSION 4: CATHOLIC VALUES, VATICAN II AND CONSCIENCE

SESSION 5: SACRAMENTS

SESSION 6: RECONCILING SERVICE