



CRH FAQs

What is *Catholics Returning Home*? CRH is a time-tested process to invite inactive Catholics to participate at Mass and receive the sacraments regularly.

Who is responsible for inviting inactive Catholics to CRH? You are! You are the key person in the CRH process because inactive Catholics are all around you. They are your family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Our Catholic duty is to welcome them home where they belong (*Luke 15.4-7*).

When does CRH meet? Three times a year after Labor Day, Christmas and Easter. Each series meets one night each week for six consecutive weeks. The process is confidential, informal and free. There is never pressure to participate further. Yet, an investment of 90 minutes a week can reap eternal rewards.

Who hosts the sessions? CRH volunteers are lay people from various walks of life who answer Christ's call to reach out to those who are away from His love and mercy. Many CRH volunteers are returning Catholics themselves who can speak firsthand about why they left and why they returned.

What happens? Sessions start by sharing stories of faith and answering questions. Then information is presented about the many good things happening in our parishes today. Later in the process, we "walk through" the Mass to learn more about this amazing gift. Then we explore the healing Sacrament of Reconciliation. At the final session, we "drill down" word by word into the Catholic Creed to unpack what we believe as Catholics and, more importantly, *why* we believe.

Then what? "Graduates" are free to register with a parish of their choice. Many continue with more in-depth education such as Bible study. Some "pay forward" their experience by becoming CRH volunteers.

When did CRH start? Sally Mews (*pro: MAYS*) founded CRH in Wisconsin in the early 80's in the Paulist tradition. *The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops* approved CRH as a model process to evangelize our estimated 23 million inactive Catholics. CRH is offered across America and as far away

as Australia. Now CRH is offered in each of the four deaneries of our Archdiocese: Baldwin, Dothan, Mobile and Montgomery.

There have been other ministries for inactive Catholics. What makes CRH so effective? There are several reasons. The main one is that CRH is primarily parish based. Our parishes are where we receive the sacraments, attend Mass and grow in knowledge, faith and love of the Lord.

Does CRH support RCIA? Of course! Both ministries share the same goal: bringing people to Christ. While *Catholics Returning Home* is primarily for baptized inactive Catholics, the *Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults* is primarily for the yet to be baptized. Since people from each group are often in the same families, CRH “graduates” often bring unbaptized family members (spouses, children and siblings) to RCIA. Some attend RCIA with their family members to learn more about Catholicism in depth.

Is it expensive for a parish to offer CRH? Not at all. Since lay volunteers do the leg work and most promotional material is provided, there is virtually no cost. So CRH is appropriate for all parishes, large and small, especially as a natural companion to RCIA.

Can my parish offer CRH? Yes, with your pastor’s permission. There are opportunities to co-sponsor and/or host CRH. A good first step is to contact a parish CRH volunteer or John Robb at (251) 605-9710.