

Why Catholics Become Inactive

Based on research done by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Evangelization, in January 2000 Bishop Michael Saltarelli of Wilmington, Delaware, stated that most inactive Catholics have drifted away from the Church for the nine reasons listed below.

Individual Activity (3-5 mins.):

1. Circle the top three reasons why people in your parish seem to have become inactive.
2. Put a check in front of any of the issues below that you have struggled with in your own faith life, even though you have remained active.

Reasons for Becoming Inactive:

- *Did not experience God's presence in their Catholic community*
- *Did not experience warm, personal, caring relationships in encounters with Catholics*
- *Saw Catholicism as complex and unrelated to their lives*
- *Experienced hurt from clergy or lay Catholics*
- *Came into conflict with Church teachings*
- *Misled by people who attack the Church*
- *Were in marriages not recognized by the Church*
- *Got busy and did not take the time to get involved*
- *Relocated but never reconnected with another Catholic parish*

Small Group Sharing (25 mins.):

- a) In groups of three or four people, share your answers to numbers 1 and 2 above.
- b) After 15 minutes move onto this question in the groups: "What has kept me living as an active Catholic or brought me back to being an active Catholic?"

Large Group Summary—on white/chalk board or news print (10-15 mins.):

- a) By raising of hands, total up answers to numbers 1 and 2.
- b) Invite a few volunteers to share their answer to, "What has kept me...?"