

DOING THE FIRST MEETING, THE FIRST INTERVIEW

Review the suggestions listed in
Discernment and Interviews 101
BEFORE THE PRECATECHUMENATE BEGINS

The goals for this first meeting or interview with
someone inquiring about the Catholic Church are:

- to extend the welcome and hospitality of Catholic
Christians to a faith seeker;
- to provide a face-to-face meeting with an "official"
of the parish Church;
- to help the inquirer decide if exploring possible
membership in the Catholic Church is desirable
at this time;
- to explain what this parish can offer to help the
inquirer's search; and
- to begin to deal with a fundamental question: "To
what may God be calling you?"

To accomplish these goals, the following steps outline a
structure for that first meeting. As the interviewer becomes not
only more comfortable with doing these interviews, but also more
attune to the distinctive needs of each inquirer, some steps can
be added or rearranged or deleted as needs require. Questions too.

Here are some possible steps and questions.

STEPS	QUESTIONS AND TOPICS
1. WELCOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Go to meet inquirer at waiting room and bring to place for meeting ● Offer coffee, water, pop, etc. ● Sit away from desk or table
2. INTRODUCE MYSELF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● My name ● What I do for a living ● How I am connected to this parish Church ● Why I am meeting with you
3. THIS CATHOLIC PARISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Here to help you deal with a fundamental question: "To what may God be calling you?" ● Catholics live out Christianity in ways similar to and different from other Christian Churches and religions ● Here to help your search, whatever that may be
4. FIRST QUESTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What brought you here? or ● Why did you call/come by? or ● What are you looking for? or ●
5. SOMETHING ABOUT THE INQUIRER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do you do for a living? ● What about your family? ● What interests do you have?

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6. ABOUT GOD AND CHRIST
 - Who is God for you?
 - What words/pictures/symbols would you use to express who God is?
 - What about Jesus Christ?
7. ABOUT YOUR FAITH LIFE
 - How have you grown in faith in your life time?
 - What have you found valuable in assisting you?
 - How do you pray?
 - Talk about your religious/Christian formation
 - What has been your religious membership?
8. ABOUT SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE
 - Who are some significant people in your life?
 - Are any of them Catholic?
 - Are any of them members of this parish?
 - If it is possible, would you want any of them to walk with you on this journey of faith?
[Possibly a Church appointed sponsor]
9. ABOUT THE FUTURE
 - What are your hopes, expectations?
 - What do you want to happen for you, for your spouse, for your family?
 - Where do you see yourself in five [three] years?
10. WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER
 - Briefly explain what this parish can do to help your search
 - Outline the whole RCIA, but focus on the first two periods of precatechumenate and the catechumenate. You may want to give something to take home and read
 - Cannot promise when initiation will happen
 - Can promise we will take whatever time it takes
 - If you also are preparing for marriage to a Catholic, consider the great importance of both steps you might take, namely marriage and initiation. Best to work on them one at a time, and we are prepared to do that with you.
 - Interested about more, about going further?
11. FILL OUT FORM
 - Use your parish form now. Have inquirer fill out
 - Some questions will already have been discussed and will make filling out the form easier
 - Interviewer can use this time to jot notes on the interview thus far
12. REVIEW FORM
 - Be sure status of baptism is clear
 - Be sure status of marriage, previous marriages are clear. Roman Catholic implications
 - Form can prompt more discussion and conversation
13. NEXT STEPS
 - Invite to next inquiry/precatechumenate session
 - Is for people like yourself
 - Visit with spouse or fiance(e). Then with both
 - Send a followup letter