

Aloha Inviting Ideas

By Fred & Sandy Ballard from the Hawaii Encounter

These are some recruiting brainstorms to try in your parish or love circle. The first three are based on the fact that couples fresh off a Weekend have a special aura, but they need support to believe in their recruiting abilities:

- Get the Angel Couples (Prayer Couples) from the past W/E to contact their couple they "angeled" and ask that couple to recruit a new couple to sign up for the next Weekend. The angel couple will likely have to assist the new couple through one or two attempts to recruit before they are confident enough to "go it alone".
- Go pick up the applications yourself, rather than wait for the recruited couple to mail them in. Suggest a convenient meeting place to get the app that will be easy for the couple to get to. Going this extra mile can pay big dividends!
- If you know the e-mail addresses of families/friends, drop them a line telling them what the Weekend did for you as a couple, and offer to send along an application. You can drop off a printed application, or get one on line from the WWME website.
- Make an appointment with your pastor, and invite him on a Weekend. Have the date of the next WWME Weekends handy when you make this visit, and a priest application. If he accepts, WONDERFUL! Or when he tells you all the reasons why he can't possibly get away, then you ask him to recommend five couples from the parish who he believes would benefit from a Weekend and be open to going. It helps to have a form letter drawn up inviting couples on the next Weekend that he can use as a template to send out to them. Or if he is just willing to give you names and addresses, then you will have to send the inviting letters out, or call the couples personally. Be sure to say that Fr. X mentioned them as a couple having a good marriage, and being ready to go on a Weekend. Include an application with the date of your next Weekend filled in.
- Ask your Pastor for his permission to talk to the Baptism and/or RCIA class instructors about making a short presentation about the Weekend to their classes. Emphasize that the Weekend is about strengthening and renewing couples involvement in the Church. **If you have a WWME person who is in the Deaconate or head of a parish ministry** this is a good selling point about the benefits of the Weekend. When it comes to the class presentation, you can use a pulpit talk or one of the new DVDs for this, and tailor it to the audience.

These are just a few starter ideas. We would love to hear stories of what worked for your recruiting efforts

We love you all,

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