



## Inquiry Step 6

### Rite of Welcome and Acceptance

- **The Rite of Acceptance and Welcome** is an opportunity for those journeying to faith to formally express their desire for Baptism, or the reception of the other Sacraments. Preferably this will happen in Church, at a Sunday Mass. The parish is then able to formally welcome the individuals, and to offer them support through prayer, and by beginning to get to know them.  
Alternatively, the Rite could take place at another time and place as agreed in consultation with the priest. Either way the family members of the young people need to be invited, and permission sought for those under the age of 16.
- Provide a sheet with details of **the Rite** and suggested time & date.
- Provide a sheet with details of the dates and timings of the next phase of the journey,
- **Growing in Faith.** (*Tailor this to suit the needs of the group, time available and liturgical season*)

**\*\*** Contact with and support from the church community is necessary for developing a sense of belonging to the community. Your presence and the Rite both encourages the parish community and challenges them to consider their own faith journey.

### Scripture Reflection and Prayer

- **Scripture Passage: Acts 2: 43-47, 10:41- 42** *If the prayer table is not central, or clearly visible to all rearrange to gather around it. Add the names of the group members to the bread plate / dish.*
  - Provide the context for the reading and invite the group members to allow God's word to speak to them as they listen to the passage.
  - invite any responses

**\*\*** The early disciples drew strength and courage from being together, they shared food, cared for one another and spent time in prayer. In keeping with the practices of Jesus, they always thanked God and asked for God's blessing before eating.

Through conversations they were able to remind one another of their mission to preach the Gospel, call people to repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

Many good people today have given up on church practice, believing they don't need to attend church to be good, or in relationship with God. True, but they miss the opportunity to be nourished by the grace of the sacrament and the love of the community. When we lose our connection, we are weaker, in unity we become stronger.

## Prayerful Response

- Before we enjoy one another's company and share the food that has been brought let us turn to God in prayer:

- **Acts: 10:41-42** *Reflective music playing during this time*

*We ate and drank with Jesus after God raised him from death.*

- bring to mind the people with whom you have shared important meals silently name each and thank God for them
- bring to mind the family members and friends with whom you can no longer share a meal. Silently name each and thank God for them
- bring to mind those who have encouraged you on this journey, including the members of this group – their names are on the table with the bread and wine, symbols of our lives.

We thank God for the gift of each of these people.

### **Together we pray:**

*Lord Jesus, we place before you the people called to mind, bless and protect them. Fill our hearts with love for all your people and each day help us to become more like you, who are our inspiration and food for life's journey. Amen*

As we prepare to share food and fellowship, we offer this dedication to the Lord:

As the scattered grain was made one in the loaf,

So you Lord, make us one in yourself.

As you took the bread to feed the people

So break us that others may be fed.

As we share bread together, may we share your work,

As we share your work, may we share your power,

As we share your pain may we share your life. *English Churches Youth Services, 1985*

## Closing Remarks and Next Step

- Remind group of the next meeting date / Rite of Welcome and Acceptance
- Encourage personal and prayer support of one another and regular attendance at Sunday Mass