

Saint Thomas More

Christ Renews His Parish - The Weekend Experience

Many people have expressed an interest in **Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)** and would like to know more before they commit to making a weekend retreat. Hopefully this information will answer your questions and encourage you to attend.

What is Christ Renews His Parish?

Whether it's long hours at work, getting the kids to soccer practice, or caring for an elderly family member, we all have commitments in our lives that demand our time and attention. Over time, these distractions can take a toll on our relationship with God and our relationships with others. All commitments, including our commitment to Christ, need continued renewal if we are to be faithful. Christ Renews His Parish is an opportunity to give yourself a break and refocus on the important things in life as a child of God. This process is designed to bring members of a parish together in Christ. This weekend retreat is unlike any you have previously attended. Parishioners share with one another the ways they have found meaning, hope, peace and love in their lives. This is the perfect way to establish a stronger bond with God and with fellow parishioners. The atmosphere is casual and you will begin friendships that will last a lifetime. If you're worried about putting the rest of your life on hold for a weekend, just know that it really is worth it. The fellowship, fun and spiritual renewal will reenergize you.

What can you expect from CRHP?

The CRHP weekend offers everyone an opportunity to listen to and perhaps discuss various topics. It is a program that has expanded across states and even across countries. CRHP offers you enriching, real life faith stories that are presented by real life people. The experience is intended to change and/or enhance the lives of those in Christ. Unlike many experiences that seek a temporary spiritual boost, this experience is meant to last a life time.

What happens during the weekend?

Most who have participated in the weekend experience say that "you can't explain what happens; you have to experience it." This is your invitation to that "experience." You will enjoy the weekend and based on past feedback no one has disliked or regretted attending the weekend in our parish. It will include some group activities, some prayer together, and some reflection by team members on such subjects as: The Father's Loving Care, Scripture, Eucharist, Christian

Community and Christian Awareness. The weekend experiences are designed to help all of us respond to Christ's call to a closer and deeper relationship with Him.

Who conducts the weekend?

The weekend experience is presented by a "team" of participants from the previous Renewal Weekends in the Parish. The experience includes special contributions that each person makes.

Where is the weekend and how long will it take?

The weekend will be at St. Thomas More. It begins at 8:00am on Saturday and continues until late into the evening. You will return on Sunday morning at 8am and the weekend ends by 2:00pm on Sunday.

Who may participate?

Every member of the parish of St. Thomas More is invited to attend. Men and women participate on different weekends. You must be at least 18 years old to attend.

How do I sign up?

You will be invited to become involved through announcements during Mass, in the weekend bulletins, and perhaps by a personal invitation from someone you know at St. Thomas More. You can sign up on the Parish website under Ministries and Christ Renews His Parish or you can call Deacon Tony at 949-551-8601 for more details. Praying for guidance is important. If you feel that Christ, through the Holy Spirit or through a human mediator, is calling you....Come!

What about weekend Mass?

We attend the 11:15 am Mass on Sunday morning together.

What about meals?

Excellent meals are served by a loving group of parishioners. There are also regular breaks for coffee, cold drinks, and snacks. Special dietary needs can be accommodated.

What is the "dress code?"

Casual and comfortable clothing is the norm.

Can I afford the cost of the weekend?

Absolutely YES! The renewal weekend is a gift from our parish. At the end of the weekend, any presenting team members or participants are free to give an anonymous donation only if they choose. No one in attendance is required to pay a penny.

I don't like to get up and talk in front of people. Will I be required to?

No one is required to get up and speak. No pressure will be applied even if others do decide they want to speak. The talks are given by team members NOT by participants.

I'm not sure I can take all this "faith sharing," and talk like that. I like things the way they were.

In this case, one may think we are presenting something new but indeed, we are not. Everything is based on Sacred Scriptures, Church teachings and approved by the Church. Don't worry about any preconceived reluctance to participate. Over 1,500 of your fellow parishioners, both men and women, have already participated in a Renewal Weekend and it is they who extend this invitation to you. "Come and see." (John 1:39).

READY TO REGISTER?

You can sign up on the Parish website under Ministries and Christ Renews His Parish or you can call Deacon Tony at 949-551-8601 for more details.