

“CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH”

Questions and Answers About The Renewal Weekend

What is CRHP?

Christ Renews His Parish is a parish renewal process that has been in place since 1969. It has been used as the primary instrument of personal and parish renewal in hundreds of parishes throughout the US. It is completely oriented to your parish, so as to give both you and your fellow parishioners the opportunity for renewal and growth in your spiritual life.

What is it NOT?

It is not a parish organization.
It is not a public confessional.
It is not a pre-selected group.
It is not a parish clique.

What happens during the weekend?

Most who have made it say, “You can’t explain what happens; you have to experience it.” CRHP is a weekend process that includes group activities and discussion, prayer, reflections, and witnesses on specific subjects. There is good food and fun too! Expect an opportunity, in a relaxed atmosphere, to respond to Christ’s call to a closer and deeper relationship with Him.

What is “The Giving Team”?

The Giving Team is composed of participants from the previous renewal weekend. They, along with the Spiritual Director and one of the priests from the parish, provide leadership and direction for the weekend.

When are the weekends?

There are separate men's and women's weekends. Each year the men's weekend takes place in the fall and the women's weekend in late winter.

How long does the weekend last?

The weekend begins at approximately 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and ends around 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. The entire period, including sleep, covers about 30 hours.

Who may participate?

Any member of the parish who has reached the age of 18.

Will someone invite me?

Consider this your invitation! You will also hear and read about the renewal weekend through announcements at Mass and in the Church bulletin. And, yes, someone may extend a personal invitation to you. It's up to you as an individual to decide. The program is not being sold – you are not being pressured to go. Praying for guidance is important. If you feel that Christ, through the Holy Spirit or through a human mediator, is calling you – **PLEASE COME!**

What about Confession?

For those who desire to receive this sacrament, there will be a time for Reconciliation.

What about Mass?

The Eucharistic Celebration will take place during the weekend.

Where do people sleep?

The sleeping accommodations in the St. Pius X “Hilton” are a bit unique – but comfortable. The motif is Early American Classroom. The service is excellent. Participants sleep on parish-provided air mattresses, bringing their own sheets, blankets, and pillows. Some guests use sleeping bags. Spending the night is encouraged.

What about meals?

Hot meals are served. The food is excellent; the portions ample. Meals are served in the cafeteria. Waiters/waitresses are past participants who prepare and serve all meals. Their slogan is “service with a smile”. There are several breaks for snacks and refreshments. Don’t worry; no one has ever left a renewal weekend hungry.

How should I dress?

In casual, comfortable clothes for the entire weekend.

How much does it cost?

Nothing more than a smile. Volunteers donate their time and the meals. Donations are appreciated, but there is no fee for attending.

I’d like to attend, but I have a health problem.

Let the priest or one of the team members know. Special arrangements can be made to accommodate you. Specific dietary needs can also be met.

I can’t get up and talk in front of people. Will I have to? What about the next weekend?

You will not be asked to get up and talk. You will be able to participate in the weekend at your comfort level. Secondly, as a team member, one is not required to give a talk or witness. He/she elects to do so.

What is “witnessing”?

Some members of the team will share their personal Faith experiences, which they attribute to the Lord. This is absolutely voluntary. A team member, aided by the Holy Spirit, asks to give a witness during the weekend. He/she may then be commissioned by the team to do so.

I’m not sure I can take all this “faith sharing”, “good news”, “renewal”, and talk like that. I like things the way they are.

You sound as if you believe these are new things. Indeed not. The renewal process doesn’t come on like a tornado. It brings some old messages into better focus. Don’t worry about your preconceived reluctance to participate. Come and see!