Handout 7-A

**Where Does the Time Go?**

**Weekdays**

**12**

**11 1**

**11 12 1**

**10 2**

**10 2**

**9 3 9 3**

**8 4 8 4**

**7 5 7 5**

**6 6**

**AM PM**

**Saturday**

**Saturday 12**

**11 1**

**10 2**

**11 12 1**

**10 2**

**9 3 9 3**

**8 4 8 4**

**7 5 7 5**

**6 6**

**AM PM**

**Sunday**

**Sunday**

**11 12 1**

**10 2**

**11 12 1**

**10 2**

**9 3 9 3**

**8 4 8 4**

**7 5 7 5**

**6 6**

**AM PM**

Handout 7-B

**Using Data for Church Planning**

Prior to beginning this assignment, make sure your group understands your sphere of influence, or what part of the Catholic Church you are responsible for.

**Responsibilities**

• The pope is responsible for the Church around the world. If you come up with significant ideas, consider how these ideas might work in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America as well.

• The archbishop or bishop is responsible for an archdiocese or diocese. An archdiocese is more likely to be in a highly populated area. You need to come up with plans that can be implemented in the archdiocese or diocese you live in. You cannot make plans, for example, that affect the whole Church.

• A pastor (priest) is responsible for his parish (or more than one, perhaps). Any plans you suggest must be implemented within your parish.

**Identify the Situation**

• Examine data online about increasing numbers of religiously unaffiliated Americans and the declining num- bers of Americans who consider themselves Catholic.

• Consider the reasons why people indicated that they left the Catholic Church.

**Plans to Welcome Returning Catholics**

• Determine to what extent your group could address some of the concerns you learned about. For example, the priest and parish council are more likely to be able to address the music or the atmosphere. The bishop and a diocesan council might be able to address the loss of interest, lack of belief, and so on. The pope and his advi- sory group might be able to address the unmet spiritual needs or loss of belief, and so on.

• Consider the stories of two people you researched who returned to the Church after leaving and any others that students in your group may know of personally.

• Consider the information in the Introduction about what Jesus offers humanity, the importance of belief and repentance, and the power of the sacraments.

• Make a plan to address some of the concerns of Catholics who have left the Church while emphasizing what Christ and the Church offer. The plan can include any creative ideas that you come up with via social media, radio, commercials, music, billboards, campaigns, etc.

**What God Offers**

**Gifts and Requirements**

• God is a loving Father who cares deeply for his children and will do anything to nourish, teach, and save them.

• Jesus wants everyone to be open to God and the coming of God’s Kingdom into their lives.

• No matter how or why or to what degree a person considers himself or herself apart from God, God is there to forgive and welcome him or her back.

• It is in and through the Church that Christ’s saving work of redemption through the events of the Paschal

Mystery is not only made known but also made present through the sacramental life of the Church.

• All of the sacraments help to make God’s compassion for a person real.

• Christians are “children of God.”

**Requirements**

• Openness to God and his Kingdom requires faith—a wholehearted acceptance of Jesus, his message, and his example.

• Repentance means a change of mind and heart, a turning from sin so that you can be open to Jesus and his message. This means that you must give up what is keeping you from God.

• Christians are called henceforth to lead a life “worthy of the gospel of Christ.” They are made capable of doing so by the grace of Christ and the gifts of his Spirit, which they receive through the sacraments and through prayer.

**Questions**

1. What can you do to become more open to Jesus, his message, and his example?

2. What are obstacles that keep you away from God? What can you do to eliminate, avoid, or cope with them?

3. How can you receive the sacraments more often or more worthily than you do now?

**The Eucharist: A Meal of Friendship**

Each of us is a friend of Jesus. For that, we give thanks. For that, we are a “Eucharistic” people. We remember

Jesus and celebrate his friendship with us whenever we

• gather

• share stories and the Good News

• share a meal together

• promise—and keep our promise—to go forth bringing the friendship of Jesus to others

Describe how these four actions of the Eucharist strengthen your friendship with Jesus and the Church commu- nity as well.

**We gather.**

**We share stories and Good News.**

**We share a meal together.**

**We promise—and keep our promise—to go forth bringing the friendship of Jesus to others.**

Handout 7-E

**The Afterlife Venn Diagram**

**HEAVEN HELL**

**PURGATORY**

Handout 7-F

**Death—Then What?**

**Death**

**Particular Judgment**

God’s justice is not ours.

God’s justice has nothing to do with vindictiveness.

The many choices we have made in life—choices that turn us toward or away from God and neighbor—are the basis of judgment.

**Purgatory**

a transitory state of

purification

**Heaven**

a permanent state of lasting love

**Hell**

a permanent state of unrepented sin, separation, and total loneliness

**Second Coming of Christ (Parousia) Resurrection of the Body**

**Last Judgment**

**A time to . . .**

(Luke 21:28)

**The Kingdom of God Fulfilled**

Handout 7-G

**Prayers for the Dead**

**Prayer for the Faithful Departed**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let per- petual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

**Prayer for the Forgotten Dead**

O merciful God, take pity on those souls who

have no particular friends and intercessors to rec- ommend them to You, who either through negli- gence of those who are alive or through length of time, are forgotten by all. Spare them, O Lord, and remember Your own when others forget to appeal to Your mercy. Let not the souls you have created be parted from You, their Creator.

Amen.

**Prayer for a Happy Death**

by Former Philippine President Corazon C. Aquino

Almighty God, most merciful Father, You alone know the time,

You alone know the hour, You alone know the moment When I shall breathe my last.

So, remind me each day, most loving Father, To be the best that I can be;

To be humble, to be kind, To be patient, to be true; To embrace what is good, To reject what is evil,

To adore only you.

When the final moment does come, Let not my loved ones grieve for long. Let them comfort each other,

And let them know how much happiness

They brought into my life. Let them pray for me,

As I will continue to pray for them, Hoping that they will always pray for each other.

Let them know that they made possible Whatever good I offered to our world. And let them realize that our separation Is just for a short while

As we prepare for our reunion in eternity. Our Father in heaven,

You alone are my hope.

You alone are my salvation.

Thank you for your unconditional love. Amen.