

Missionary Families of Christ

ASSURING A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR NEW MEMBERS OF MFC

Critical to laying a good foundation for a new member of MFC are two of the initiations courses—the Christian Life Seminar (CLS) and the Covenant Recollection (CR). If we do these well, then when a new member makes his/her covenant, we can more or less be assured that a good foundation has been laid.

The CLS brings people to conversion and transformation in Christ, or at least the initial stirrings. The CLS follow-up in household meetings reinforces what has been taken up in the CLS. Then the CR, together with follow-up discussions in households, makes clear what is the commitment (covenant) in MFC, and starts to bring people into a deeper life in Christ.

What comes later is for further growth—MER, different formation courses, service. If the foundation has been well laid, the new member himself will look forward to what else is to come.

Therefore, herewith is the step-by-step process that needs to be done. ***No short-cuts are allowed.***

Prior to CLS

1. All CLSs are to be chapter based, that is, by the authority of the Chapter Servant (CS).¹
2. The CS must keep a running list, based on feedback from Unit Servants (US), who receive feedback from Household Servants (HS), of those brethren who seem ready to become facilitators in a CLS.
3. A CLS is mounted on the initiative of any member. That member recommends that a CLS be mounted, which then needs to be approved by the CS after appropriate study.
4. The CS then prepares the team by going through the CLS Training (3 talks). The CS appoints a CLS team leader.
5. It is presumed that the Evangelization Training (ET) has been given to all new members either at the beginning of the year or at the end of the year. CSs and/or Area Servants (AS) should ensure that the ET is given.
6. ***Our basic method of evangelization is person-to-person.*** While we may make use of fliers or parish announcements, CSs/USs/HSs should move their people to do personal witnessing and invitation to the CLS. This basically is the reason why the CLS does not have an Orientation Session, because participants have basically been oriented already.

CLS

7. A CLS should be the standard 6-session seminar or the longer 9-session one.
8. A CLS is ideally mounted by MFC Sections (couples, handmaids, servants, singles) but may be a mega one if the membership in the different Sections are not yet large enough or not yet well-established.
9. ***A CLS needs to be done “by the book,”*** that is, following all the provisions in the CLS Team Manual and the CLS Team Leader’s Guide. Pre- and post-session team meetings need to be done.

¹ CLSs may be conducted just by units or households or other groups within the chapter, but must have the knowledge and authorization of the Chapter Servant.

Households

10. At the end of the CLS, graduates are invited to attend households.
11. The CS appoints the HSs and gives them the attendant training, starting with the Household Leaders Training (HLT) orientation of 4 talks. Thence they will have one teaching a month for 12 months. HSs are provided the Household Servant's Manual.
12. The HSs follow the content of the Orientation of New Households (providing for 8 meetings).

CR

13. The CR has 8 teachings contained in 4 sessions (2 topics per session). In between sessions are the household meetings. Here the HSs are to follow the discussions according to the Covenant Recollection Follow-up paper.
14. At the end of the CR, the underway members are asked if they want to commit to becoming full members of MFC, by signing their covenant.

Miscellaneous provisions

15. All established chapters should have at least 2 CLSs a year. If the chapter is large, then more CLSs might be called for. ***One gauge: is the chapter able to double in membership for the year*** (the natural consequence if each member successfully evangelizes just one other person in a whole year)?
16. As much as possible, ***the one-service rule is to be observed*** (except for fulltimers or retirees).
17. HSs are at the frontline is helping bring new members to Christ. They should be faithful to their service. USs provide the back-up support for HSs and their members. CSs ensure that the life and mission of the mini-MFC that is the chapter is moving on in the strength of the Spirit.

(SG. Oct 7, 2019)