

What is Christ Renews His Parish? "Christ Renews His Parish" is a spiritual renewal process which calls together the members of the parish - priests, religious, laity - in order to experience personal conversion and Christian community in the environment of their own parish.

It is completely oriented to the parish in order to give both the individual and the parish an opportunity for renewal and growth in the spiritual life. It is led by those who have experienced the retreat.

Christ Renews was developed in 1969 and has been experienced by hundreds of parishes across the country. In our local area, Cure of Ars, Visitation, St. Peters, St. Thomas More and other parishes have this program. St. Elizabeth was the first parish on the Missouri side of the metro to offer this renewal process. We received the gift of CRHP from our friends in Kansas parishes.

How do I register? Registration is available online, and in the parish office. Applications are accepted on a "first come, first served" basis. If all of the spots are filled by the time you register, we invite you to sign up for the next weekend. When you register someone from the team will contact you to confirm your attendance in the weekend.

What happens during the weekend? The retreat is held at St. Elizabeth church in Seton Hall. It includes group activities and discussions, prayer and sacraments together, and reflections by fellow parishioners. You are invited to share only as much as you wish and everything is held in confidence. Discussions are mainly about scripture or certain topics, and there is no expectation that you will share your "life story" on the retreat.

Most who have made it say, "you can't explain what happens; you have to experience it." This is your invitation to experience.

Where and when is the retreat weekend held? There will be a Men's Retreat and a Women's Retreat each Winter and Summer.

Who may attend? Anyone 21 years or older, who resides within the parish boundaries, or who is registered in the parish is invited to attend.

I'm doubtful. Who will invite me? You will be invited by announcements at Mass, through the church bulletin and perhaps by someone in the parish who may know you. It is up to you, as an individual, to make up your own mind. 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, COME!

How long will it last? The weekend begins about 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and will end by 4 p.m. on Sunday.

What should I wear? Casual and comfortable clothes. Blue jeans and yoga pants are the usual. No extra "Sunday best" is expected.

When do I attend weekend Mass? There will be celebrations of the Eucharist included in the Renewal Weekend for those properly disposed to receive the sacrament.

What about my meals? Hot meals are served. The food is excellent and the portions ample. There are regular breaks for coffee, soft drinks and snacks. We can also accommodate any special dietary needs.

Where do I sleep? The sleeping accommodations for the retreat are a bit unique but comfortable. Service is excellent since you make your own bed and provide whatever linens, pillows blankets, sleeping bags, etc. that you desire. We have a number of air mattresses available for your use and someone else even blows them up for you.

Can I afford this weekend? It's free! Volunteer helpers and contributions of some items help keep cost to a minimum. The cost is supported by St. Elizabeth Parish.

If I have a health problem, may I still attend? Mention that you have a special need on the Registration Form. A person from the Retreat Team will contact you about your specific requirements. It should not keep you from coming. There are very few situations we cannot accommodate.