

Our Process

- We have observed that we have been healed during those times when we have been willing to share our brokenness. We believe that God will enter our lives to the extent that we are open to His presence.
- In whatever we do, we strive to be compassionate and non-judgmental. We do not claim to know what decision is best for those whom we serve.
- We do not consider ourselves experts or authorities in matters of faith or doctrine.
- Although we strive to encourage one another to persevere, and to consider that they have a place in our community, we believe it is not our role to coerce others to remain.
- Everything that is shared, whether it is said formally or informally, is considered confidential, not to be revealed outside our gatherings.
- We recognize that it is the Spirit who draws people to Christ and to His Church. He is responsible for whatever healing may be accomplished through this ministry.

Contact Information

For more information, including the time and place of our gatherings, please contact us at welcomhome@sharethejourney.org

Lord, we ask that our minds and hearts
be open and attentive,
comforted in the knowledge that
whenever we are lost,
it is not we who find You;
rather, it is You who finds us.

Have You Been Away
from
The Catholic Church for
A Long Time?



Welcome Home!

Well, maybe you're not ready to call it "home." You've been away for some time, and you're not certain you really want to return. But for some reason, you're feeling drawn to take another look.

Your Leaving

How is it that you left? Perhaps for one reason or another you began to feel like an “outsider,” and in time you came to believe that that you simply didn’t belong. You may have left in anger, hurt by the criticism that was directed at you by someone who should have known better, or upset by words and actions you considered scandalous and hypocritical. Or maybe you simply wandered away, caught up in the opportunities and promises you believed life had to offer.

Since You’ve Left

A lot of life has happened since then. You see some things differently now, especially things about yourself. Some questions aren’t as easy to answer, and maybe there’s a sense that something is missing. There’s an emptiness that’s difficult to describe – the one that all your effort and successes in life haven’t been able to satisfy.

So Many Questions

You wonder if the Catholic Church can satisfy what’s been missing in your life. Perhaps a friend has encouraged you to “take another look.” But you’re not ready to make a commitment – at least not right now. You’re concerned that you may not feel welcome or fit in. You’d really like to talk it over with someone who’s been there – who left under similar circumstances. Maybe with someone who can understand that you’re not really sure that this can ever be your home.

Who Are We?

We are a lay organization of Catholic men and women who understand what it is like to be away. There are a lot of us who have left for one reason or another – probably a few

of us have stories that are similar to yours. We understand that you may be afraid you won’t feel welcome or at home.

We are sorry for the pain you have suffered along the way, and realize it may take some time to decide whether you want to stay. But like many of us, you may discover that taking another look can be the beginning of some healing that you never thought was possible.

What Do We Do?

We have found that spiritual healing often begins with sharing our journey with others. Our program involves gathering together for several weeks to listen, share and pray. Participants are free to share as much or as little of their story as they choose. We are not here to judge you, and we won’t force you to stay – that’s your decision. The choices you made may have been a necessary part of your journey.

Contact Us

If you would like to join us, or you’d like to know a little more about *Welcome Home*, please contact us.

We know that this can be a difficult step to take. But by taking this step, you may come to realize that you really do belong to this family, and in time we hope you will want to join with us at the table of our Father, where together we can receive His nourishment for the remainder of our journey.

There is a place set for you at the table ... and we really miss you.

Our Mission

We seek to be a supportive and healing ministry for those who at some point identified themselves as Catholic and who now question whether there is a place for them in the Catholic Church.

We seek to be an open door for our brothers and sisters who have been away from the church for a period of time – an open door through which they can enter and come to know their place in our Father’s house.

Our Model

Our model is one of welcoming, listening and sharing:

- We welcome all who enter, knowing how important it has been for us to feel welcomed, and mindful of how difficult it can be to reconcile oneself to a community that has been identified with pain and disillusionment.
- We strive to listen with the heart of Christ, knowing that those who consider returning have much to share.
- We share our own story, as willing instruments of hope and comfort, and to assure those we serve that we who are broken and in pain have a place within our Father’s house.