

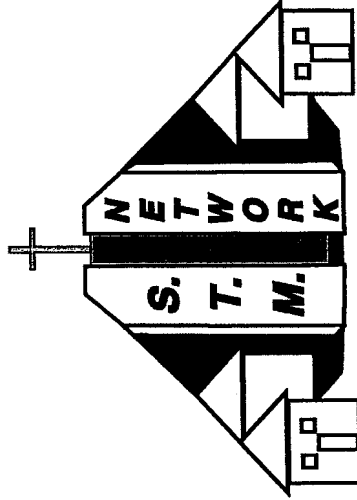
Do's and Don'ts of Meeting your Network Representative.....

DON'T'S

- Don't clean your house,.....
(When we stop by, we don't plan on coming in.)
- Don't take your hair out of curlers.
(We don't plan on dressing up and you shouldn't either.)
- Don't stop cooking supper.
(we're only stopping by for a few minutes, usually to drop something off.)
- Don't get out your checkbook.
(We don't have anything to do with fundraising and will not ask you for money.)
- Don't look for your earplugs.
(Our goal is to get to know you and the only info we plan to give you is upcoming events that might interest you.)

DO'S

- Do be open to the concept.
(You might enjoy knowing your fellow parishioners.)
- Do be kind to your representative when they come around.(Our frail kind-hearted little egos hate to be crushed by slamming doors.)
- Do consider joining our Network team.
(We've got room and we'd love to have you join us in this mission.)



Becoming a Parish of Neighbors

For more information contact Joe Bularzik
@ 219-838-7887

DID YOU KNOW????

-There are approximately 3000 households registered at St. Thomas More Parish.

-There are just under 10,000 individual parishioners and growing.

-The population of Munster is about 21,000.

-Nearly 40% of Munster's residents belong to St. Thomas More.

Our Mission:

Develop and implement a Parish Network of friendly Christian messengers that will facilitate communication within the Parish family, as well as the community at large. This Network is to be an instrument for effective Parish ministry and unity.

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We are overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response our fledging Network has received. Is it possible to create a neighborhood, caring, small town atmosphere in a large urban parish? Judging by your response and willingness to work toward that goal, it appears that it is a very exciting probability.

**-The Network is not a fundraising organization.
-It has nothing to do with computers; you do not need one to participate.
-It is designed to reach out to those who want to become more involved in the church or want to know or help fellow parishioners.**

If you are like many of us, involvement with the church is limited- for a variety of reasons. When you attend mass you know a few, if any, of the people sitting in the pew with your other family members. You might think about going to coffee after mass once in awhile, but you wouldn't know anyone anyway, so you think, "why bother?" You wouldn't mind giving an elderly neighbor a ride to church on Sunday, but you don't know anyone who might need or like a ride. Now that your children are grown, you think it might be nice to know a young mother who could benefit from your wisdom and a kind word now and then; but you don't personally know of anyone like that. You may be very thankful for all God has given to you and would like to share with a family that has not been as fortunate. Again, you just don't know who needs the help. Your company may be hiring and you would certainly consider a good employee who is a member of your parish, but you don't know who is qualified and who needs a job.

We hope to build links from neighbor to neighbor, parishioner to parishioner- a network that will reach out to all our parishioners. Our goal is to make a large urban church feel more like a small home town parish. We want to connect people to people and people to services. We are reaching out to the church- the body of Catholic men, women, and children in our community inviting them to help us build a true family of God.

We currently have a core committee, area coordinators and district representatives. The Core committee continues to do the legwork to get the system in place and keep it running once in place. The area coordinators will be a link between the core committee and the district representatives. They will help distribute materials to the district reps and perform other functions as needed. The district representative are the most important link in the network. The district rep will serve in an area around his or her home and come to know the needs and talents of his neighbors. We know that not everyone will want to participate, and we will respect that. When the program begins, the district rep will introduce himself or herself to you and give you the opportunity to indicate your willingness to be contacted further. We hope you will be open to the concept and give it a try.

You can still volunteer to participate at any of the three levels: core committee, area coordinator or district representative. If you do not want to volunteer, please be kind to the district representatives when they contact you. They are, after all, attempting to do God's work. We hope to be up and running in August. We are excited to meet all of you and we hope you are excited about the Network's endless possibilities.

Sincerely,

The STM Network Core Committee