

Homily Helps

Tips for powerful homilies inviting people to RENEW

- **Have a powerful opening sentence!** Attention spans are fleeting... reach the people in the pews right away, or not at all. Say something surprising or impactful!
 - **Ask a question:** "What do you believe?"
 - **Say something surprising:** "I don't know everything about faith. I don't even know everything about my own faith, and I *definitely* don't know everything about yours."
 - **Make it powerful:** "You can move mountains..." (then connect to *Matthew 17:20*)
- **Keep it Short!** Once you've made your point, wrap it up. Parishioners will reflect more on what you've said if it is concise, impactful, and persuasive.
- **Draw on a quote from Scripture, especially one from the day's readings.** Connecting Catholic tradition to the RENEW process and demonstrating how taking part is faith in action is key! Examples:
 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." *Matthew 18:20*
 - "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." *Hebrews 10:24-25*
- **Connect RENEW and your homily to their lives.** Anecdotes of how RENEW or a similar experience of faith-sharing changed your life, or concrete examples of how it could change theirs, will make your homily even more persuasive.
- **Be ready to act when your parishioners are inspired.** Be prepared to answer questions about the RENEW process as you greet parishioners after mass and have opportunities for registration available at the doors of the church. Consider inviting members of the Core Community to join you at the masses when you give this homily so they, too, can be available to answer questions, give testimony, or help people get involved.

