**Contents of “New Parish Member” Welcome Basket**

Please customize a basket/packet that is unique to your parish

The process for delivering the packet (below) is just an example and can be customized

1. Straw Basket (approximately 10” x 15” in size)
2. Tissue Paper for padding basket interior
3. Welcome letter from Pastor
4. Blessed Crucifix
5. A few envelopes until they receive their custom envelopes in the mail
6. Online giving information
7. Map of the church buildings
8. Most recent bulletin and/or newsletter
9. Magnet with the Holy Days and Mass Times
10. Information about the Diocese of Fort Worth
11. Light House CD (i.e., Mathew Kelly – Our lives Change When Our Habits

Change, “Why I Am Catholic” By Patrick Madrid or other similar CD)

1. Holy Family icon or Church Crucifix (Fridge magnet)

13. Rosary Brochure on how to pray the rosary along with a Blessed Rosary or “The

Chaplet Of Divine Mercy” pamphlet

1. Small prayer booklet by Mathew Kelly or Peter Kreeft
2. Most recent annual report
3. Loaf of freshly baked, like homemade banana or zucchini bread
4. Ministry booklet with needs and interests survey
5. Parish Stewardship commitment card, setting the expectations for new parishioners

19. Prayer card containing the images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate

Heart of Mary with a prayer on back

All contents (except bread) are placed inside a clear plastic bag with a small greeting card from the Volunteer Committee.

**Before delivery, the baskets are prepared (information is taken out of the plastic bag) and organized with tissue paper and bread. The baskets are delivered and followed up on as follows:**

1. A list of new members is obtained from Parish Secretary at the end of each month by “welcome basket volunteers”. The appropriate amount (number of loafs) of bread are baked, for that month, baskets are prepared, and assigned to the volunteers. The assigned new members are called by that volunteer and a date and time for a home visit is scheduled. A team of two volunteers then deliver the basket to the home on the day and time scheduled. Volunteers briefly visit with the new member/family, personally welcoming them to the Parish.
2. The new family is invited to the new member gathering.
3. Upon completion of the home visit, volunteers provide a brief report to the Parish on how the home visit went and whether any problems or questions were encountered in either the scheduling or conducting the home visit to welcome the new member(s). If the new members indicate that they would like; a home blessing, enthronement of the Sacred Heart/Immaculate Heart, or a visit by a priest, etc., this information is also promptly reported back to the parish and appropriately followed up on.