

MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

- The ICF is generally good at attracting new members
- Bring your family - children, grandchildren
- Bring your friends
- Pay first year dues for your children and grandchildren
- Have a guest night at a meeting
- Your Pastor, Chaplain or other religious can help spread the word
- Support your parish and school and let them know you do
- Keep ICF information readily available - example: church entrances
- ICF sponsor coffee and donuts after mass
- ICF sponsor free dinner for parish anniversary
- Active membership committee
- Information table at mass
- Two-minute mass speech
- Advertisement in parish bulletin
- Encourage family memberships
- ICF is the only family-oriented group at in most parishes
- Schedule events and meetings for families with young children

GETTING MEMBERS TO JOIN

- Invite them to a meeting
- Talk to them at the meeting, make them feel welcome
- Recognize them by name at the meeting
- Give them a free guest dinner
- Give them a free dinner when they are initiated
- Use nametags at meetings
- Follow up phone calls
- Provide information about ICF

KEEPING MEMBERS

- One of our biggest problems is retention
- They joined for a reason; you need to fulfill their expectations.
- Be an active branch, not complacent
- Have active committees to carry out the ICF programs
- Invite members to get involved in communities and activities

- Use sign-up sheets for volunteers, then follow up with a call
- Include young children in activities – cleanup, serving, etc.
- Have flexible hours for young children, bedtime, homework
- Include older members in committees
- Elect different Convention delegates each year
- Have an active religious and charity program
- Keep your pastor and chaplain active
- Sponsor a seminarian – ask your pastor if one is assigned to your parish
- Attend ICF Quarterly Masses – in recognition of deceased members
- Make all members feel welcome
- Be friendly – avoid conflicts and cliques at all costs
- Keep your members informed – especially those who can't attend meetings
- Start a Branch newsletter – keep members informed
- Telephone committees – keep members informed
- Pay a visit to or call a home-bound member – let them know you care
- Give a ride to a member who can't drive
- Meals on Wheels – send meals home to sick members, free of charge
- Make meetings interesting
- Keep meetings short – less than one hour
- Promote ICF programs – Gifts of Love, Cooley's, Scholarship, Providenza, Organ Donor, Convention
- Have an active heritage program
- Invite members to speak on their family heritage at a meeting
- Heritage fun day – highlight various heritages at a meeting
- Have dinner meetings or potlucks – can be simple like pizza
- Invite guest speakers – Public Safety, Gifts of Love, Organ Donor, etc.
- Have entertainment – school children, scouts, bands, dance, music
- Have raffles at meetings
- Anniversaries – recognize wedding and religious vows anniversaries
- Birthdays – sign Happy Birthday, send them a card, give a free dinner
- Prayers – ask for prayers for sick and deceased members
- Noi Vogliam Dio (and God Bless America) – sing at meetings and events
- Tell jokes – especially effective for deputies to use during their report
- Report on district and other branch activities – support each branch
- Lapsation committee – don't let members leave the ICF without calling them – this is a good job for the trustees.