

ASSURING A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR NEW MEMBERS OF CFC-FFL

Critical to laying a good foundation for a new member of CFC-FFL are two of the initiations courses--the Christian Life Seminar (CLS) and the Covenant Recollection (CR). If we do these well, then when a new member makes his/her covenant, we can more or less be assured that a good foundation has been laid.

The CLS brings people to conversion and transformation in Christ, or at least the initial stirrings. The CLS follow-up in household meetings reinforces what has been taken up in the CLS. Then the CR, together with follow-up discussions in households, makes clear what is the commitment (covenant) in CFC-FFL, and starts to bring people into a deeper life in Christ.

What comes later is for further growth--MER, different formation courses, service. If the foundation has been well laid, the new member himself will look forward to what else is to come.

Therefore, herewith is the step-by-step process that needs to be done. ***No short-cuts are allowed.***

Prior to CLS

1. All CLSs are to be chapter based, that is, by the authority of the Chapter Servant (CS).
2. The CS must keep a running list, based on feedback from Unit Servants (US), who receive feedback from Household Servants (HS), of those brethren who seem ready to become facilitators.
3. A CLS is mounted on the initiative of any member, that is, a parishioner, a parish liaison, a corporate person, etc. That member recommends that a CLS be mounted, which then needs to be approved by the CS after appropriate study.
4. The CS then prepares the team by going through the CLS Training (3 talks). The CS appoints a CLS team leader. The team preferably would be parishioners, but non-parishioners can be tapped for the team.
5. It is presumed that the Evangelization Training (ET) has been given to all new members either at the beginning of the year or at the end of the year. CSs and/or District Servants (DS) should ensure that the ET is given.
6. ***Our basic method of evangelization is person-to-person.*** While we may make use of fliers or parish announcements, CSs/USs/HSs should move their people to do personal witnessing and invitation to the CLS. This basically is the reason why the CLS does not have an Orientation Session, because participants have basically been oriented already.

CLS

7. ***A CLS should be the standard 9-session seminar.*** Compressed CLSs are only for exceptional cases. Exemptions are to be approved by the Area Servant.
8. A CLS is ideally by adult ministry (CFC,HFL,SvFL,SFL) but may be a mega one if the different ministries are not yet large enough or not yet well established.

9. **A CLS needs to be done “by the book,”** that is, following all the provisions in the CLS Team Manual and the CLS Team Leader’s Guide. Pre- and post-session team meetings need to be done.

Households

10. After the CLS, graduates are invited to attend households.
11. The CS appoints the HSs and gives them the attendant training, starting with the Household Leaders Training (HLT) orientation of 4 talks. Thence they will have one teaching a month for 12 months. HSs are provided the Household Servant’s Manual.
12. The HSs follow the content of the Orientation of New Households (providing for 8 meetings).

CR

13. The CR has 8 teachings contained in 4 sessions (2 topics per session). In between sessions are the household meetings. Here the HSs are to follow the discussions according to the Covenant Recollection Follow-up paper.
14. At the end of the CR, the underway members are asked if they want to commit to becoming full members of CFC-FFL, by signing their covenant.

Miscellaneous provisions

15. All established chapters should have at least 2 CLSs a year. If the chapter is large, then more CLSs might be called for. **One gauge: is the chapter able to double in membership for the year** (the natural consequence if each member successfully evangelizes just one other person in a whole year)?
16. All established parish CFC-FFL groups not yet a chapter (unit or household only) are to look to mounting a CLS in their parish, with the aim of becoming a chapter.
17. As much as possible, **the one-service rule is to be observed** (except for fulltimers or retirees). Those who are HSs, USs and CSs are not to take a major service in the parish if such will keep them from fully exercising their primary role and responsibility in CFC-FFL.
18. HSs are at the frontline in helping bring new members to Christ. They should be faithful to their service. USs provide the back-up support for HSs and their members. CSs ensure that the life and mission of the mini-CFC that is the chapter is moving on in the strength of the Spirit. CISs focus on the personal pastoral formation of CSs.

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