

A special welcome to non-Catholics attending a SEARCH weekend.

We want to welcome you to your first Search weekend. We hope that this weekend will be all you are hoping for and more.

The Search weekend is open to all denominations; however, the weekend is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and many of the sharings deal with specific doctrines and Sacraments of the Church, such as Reconciliation, the Eucharist, Marriage, Mary, the priesthood and religious life.

The Search weekend is designed as a vehicle to grow deeper in one's faith, regardless of the denomination that encompasses that faith. The goal of the weekend is to form a true Christian Community where the focus is on forming or strengthening a true personal relationship with Jesus Christ and enkindling the fact that as a true Christian community we are Christ for one another.

The reason this disclaimer is written is to make those who are not Catholic aware of subject matters that might be found to be sensitive or at least areas where all churches are not unified.

We welcome our fellow Christians to the celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. All those not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another. They are invited to come forward with arms crossed over chest, and receive a blessing. This is not required.

Another area of sensitivity is the discussion of Mary and her role as the perfect example of what a true Christian should be. During the sharing on Mary, time will be taken to explain and experience the prayer of the rosary. If anyone does not wish to open themselves to this prayer, they are welcome to stay and spend the time in meditation or make the directors aware of an uncertainty of participation in this sharing. We will be very understanding either way.

The Search community is a minute fraction of the entire Body of Christ. We are made up of Catholics and non-Catholics alike. We welcome your presence and we encourage you to take the experience of the weekend to help you to grow in your faith and your relationship with Christ.

We invite you to contact us with any questions at any time, whether it be prior to the weekend or at anytime throughout the weekend. We are here to help in any way possible, whether it be in explanation of any topic, or to answer any questions you may have, please let us know so we can be of service to you. Thank you, and we hope the weekend is a weekend of growth.