

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) FAQs

1. What does “CRHP” stand for?

“Christ Renews His Parish.” We fondly pronounce it “chirp”. It is a program that has expanded across states and even across countries.

2. What is CRHP?

CRHP is a great way of becoming connected with fellow parishioners. It is a process by which one can experience “Church” through the power of scripture and commitment of fellow parishioners.

3. What is CRHP not?

- CRHP is not a silent retreat but you will have an opportunity to reflect.
- CRHP is not an organization but a dynamic faith based program centered on Christ. CRHP is in the parish, of the parish, and for the parish.
- CRHP is not a public confession.
- CRHP is not an emotional cult but the love of Christ will be evident.
- CRHP is not a parish clique. However, you will experience a new kind of family.

4. What happens during the weekend?

Most who have participated in the weekend experience say that “you can’t explain what happens; you have to experience it.” This is your invitation to that “experience.” Not one person has disliked or regretted attending the weekend in our parish - (See our past participants section and feel free to ask anyone). It will include some group activities and interactions, some prayer together, and some reflection by “team” members on such subjects as: The Father’s Loving Care, Scripture, Eucharist, Christian Community, and Christian Awareness. You may expect an opportunity, in a relaxed atmosphere, to respond to Christ’s call to a closer and deeper relationship with Him.

5. Where does CRHP take place?

The CRHP takes place on the premises of Immacolata Parish. Arrival and check-in at 8 a.m. takes place at the school on the Saturday morning of the weekend and then the participants proceed to our weekend “break room” for a light breakfast. Meals, snacks, and beverages are provided throughout the day. On Saturday evening CRHP givers and participants retire to certain classrooms where everyone sleeps on cots in their sleeping bags. The retreat continues on Sunday, ending about 4:00 p.m.

6. When is the next CRHP scheduled to take place?

The next women’s retreat is Saturday & Sunday, January 18-19, 2014. CRHP takes place at our church/school and there is no charge.

7. How do I sign up?

You will be invited to become involved through announcements during Mass, in the weekend bulletins, and perhaps by a personal invitation from someone you know in Immacolata Parish. It is up to you, as an individual, to make up your own mind. The program is not being sold and you are not being pressured to go. Email Jill Metherd at jmetherd@gmail.com with any questions or to let us know you’re interested. Praying for guidance is important. If you feel that Christ, through the Holy Spirit or through a human mediator, is calling you...Come!

8. Who conducts the weekend?

A team of around 10 participants from the previous Renewal Weekends in the parish prepare the weekend during a six to twelve month formation period. The experience includes special contributions that each person makes. The combination makes a very enjoyable weekend.

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9. How many people will be on the weekend?

The parish team who presents the weekend consists of around 10 adults, and there are 18 spaces for adult parishioners who are attending the retreat.

10. When does the retreat begin and end?

The weekend will begin at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday and will end by 4:00 P.M. on Sunday.

11. Who may participate?

Every member of the parish of Immacolata is invited to attend. The parish, of course, consists of all persons residing within the parish boundaries and/or those who are registered on the parish rolls. Men and women participate on different weekends. You must be at least 18 years old to attend.

12. What do I need to bring with me on the CRHP weekend?

You need to bring a sleeping bag or a twin sized sheet and blanket, a pillow, toiletries, personal medications, sleep wear, and a change of clothes. Cots are provided. Please note there are no showers available.

13. What about weekend Mass?

There will be a special Eucharistic Celebration/Mass for those attending the weekend.

14. Where do people sleep?

The sleeping accommodations will be in classrooms. You may bring sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, etc. There are real benefits in staying overnight together with your fellow participants. However, if health or other issues would prevent this, call us, let us work this out. There is always some kind of option available.

15. Where do we eat, and who prepares the food?

We eat lunch and hot dinners in the school cafeteria and light breakfasts and snacks in our “break room”. The food is excellent and the portions ample. Snacks are also provided throughout the weekend. Tipping is prohibited. There will be regular breaks for coffee, cold drinks, and snacks. Previous participants volunteer to prepare and serve the food. After attending a weekend, this is a great volunteer opportunity.

16. What if I have special dietary needs?

Special dietary needs can be accommodated. Please tell us when you register, and a team member will contact you to make sure we accommodate your needs.

17. How do I need to dress for the weekend?

Casual and comfortable clothing is the norm. “Sunday best” is not expected.

18. How much does the weekend cost? Can I afford it?

Absolutely YES! The Renewal Weekend is a gift from the parish community and is free to all who attend. You may, however, make private and/or anonymous donations should you be so inspired.

19. I would like to attend, but I have a health problem.

Your health problem should be discussed with one of the next retreat leaders, Jill Metherd at (314)740-0100. A recommendation will then be made.

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20. I have insomnia, will I disturb others?

Forget it! Remember, there is only one night's sleep. To minimize the problem, we retire late and rise early.

21. I don't like to get up and talk in front of people. Will I be required to?

No one is required to get up and speak. No pressure will be applied even if others do decide to speak

22. If I decide to participate in the next retreat, will I have to speak there?

If you choose to be on a future team, you still will not be required to speak publicly. There will be ways you can still participate in the background.

23. What about this "witnessing" business?

The talks are given by team members NOT by participants. You may share in conversation or thoughts (as much or as little as you choose) in a small group with other participants.

24. I'm not sure I can take all this "Faith Sharing, "Renewal," "Good News" and talk like that.

Don't worry about any preconceived reluctance to participate. Every participant arrives at the retreat with a different perspective and unique understanding of who God is depending on where they are on their spiritual journey. Everything is based on Sacred Scriptures, Church teachings, and approved by the Church. The uniqueness of the Christ Renews His Parish renewal program is its continuation. Participants are usually so inspired and moved, so renewed and uplifted, that they are anxious to share their faith and their experience with others in the parish family.

Participants have the opportunity to begin planning the next men's or women's weekends soon after they complete their own. They become the "new team." During this formation time, even greater spiritual growth occurs. This weekend is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Christ and to grow more in love with your fellow parishioners at Immacolata.

25. How many times do people attend a CRHP weekend?

A person attends the weekend once, and then may choose to participate as a member of a future retreat team. Some members have participated in several retreats.

26. What about emergency contacts?

An emergency number will be given to you before the weekend which will be answered by one of the weekend team members. Also, you will provide the team an emergency contact telephone number when you register and this number will be on file all weekend.

27. Is there opportunity to continue building my faith with others after the retreat?

Yes, if you choose to do so. Some participants wish to continue building their faith together after the retreat and are given the chance to meet regularly every 2-3 weeks with fellow retreat participants in order to grow in their faith while sharing their lives. This is an optional extension of the CRHP retreat.

28. Who can I contact if I have more questions?

Any current team member can answer additional questions. Please see the list on the CRHP Women's Retreat web page at www.immacolata.org.