

The purpose of this folder and the subsequent three folders is to get the men thinking about the way their lives are going and how they would like them to go.

Pointers for Folder 1

In catechetical language these first four folders are an aid to pre-evangelization. This means that their ultimate purpose is to interest the men in hearing more about the Good News brought to us by Jesus. It is impossible to lay out an approach that will interest everyone, but in general a person has to feel something is missing in his life and be looking for a new and better way to live. As Catholics we believe that God, revealed in Jesus Christ, offers a new way of life. But before this new path can be laid out, a person has to realize that the path he is on is going nowhere.

Keep this need in the back of your mind. Usually the request for an interview is a cautious way of putting one's foot in the door. When a man asks to see you to talk about this or one of the other folders, be open and ready to hear what he has to say, but be slow to speak. At most, help the man identify and articulate his feelings, hopes, or questions. Usually he will have read the folder beforehand and will have some questions or thoughts about the material or about religion. The immediate aim of the first interview is to make the man feel comfortable and accepted so that he will come back a second and third time.

In this and subsequent folders, the drawings are often a non-threatening point to pose a question, to share an experience, to establish contact, or to begin the conversation. If the inquirer has questions or thoughts about the material, pick up where ever he happens to be. It is not necessary to start with the first line on the first page.

It is important that the man's questions about religion, the Bible, or Church practices be answered as quickly and as clearly as possible in the limited time available to you. Unanswered questions will block whatever you have to offer no matter how true or important it is. Have available material on frequently asked questions to help you answer questions immediately.

Active, caring, understanding listening is the ingredient that will make a success of this effort to reach out to those who are especially beloved by Christ.