

## **Your Number One Opportunity**

Why should people come to church or come back to church if their experience week after week is unhelpful, or maybe even offensive? A national campaign invites non-practicing Catholics to “come home.” But what in the world are they coming home to? If it is more of the irrelevant experience that drove them away to begin with, we could be doing more harm than good.

The weekend experience is the number one opportunity for people in the community to connect with church. And almost everyone who actually does come in contact with the parish does so on the weekend. In that brief time, they will decide if it is worth it to come back or not. If the experience is boring and bad, then they won't.

In our parish, Church of the Nativity in the Archdiocese of Baltimore USA, very little time or attention was given to the weekend. We treated the weekend as an afterthought; the music was whatever the musicians felt like playing; the celebrants determined the weekend messages; and, our staff took weekends off. We were too busy Monday through Friday to worry about Sunday.

**Taken from: *Rebuilt*, by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran**