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### WAITING FOR YOU!

By Linda Weaver

Going door-to-door makes most Catholics uncomfortable. "What if someone slams the door in my face?"

So how can a "beginning evangelizer" help guarantee a positive first experience?

One parish wanted to reach the 80 percent of parishioners who weren't really active. We formed a Parish Network, divided the town into districts and invited people to be an area representative. We visited all 2,500 homes.

I designed a simple pamphlet describing what the people could expect. We told them that we were just stopping by to give them the Sunday bulletin and info on parish programs. We told them we weren't asking for money. We even told them they didn't have to take their hair out of curlers! We just wanted to invite them to join us.

I volunteered to be an area rep with about 40 homes. Before I made my visits, I wrote a letter to my neighbors introducing myself, my family, what I did, and that I would be stopping by. I included the pamphlet and my phone number.

I told them that if they didn't want me to come by, they could leave me a message. No one did.

I headed out one Sunday. Absolutely everyone was glad to see me. They were so happy that someone from the church had finally come to tell them they were wanted.

At the end of the day I was tired, but had two houses left and decided to go on.

I saw a man standing down the block. He yelled, "Are you Mrs. Weaver?" I said, "Yes." He yelled back, "We've been waiting for you!"

When they received my letter, they talked about it and were excited. That man later became a Eucharistic minister.

They are waiting for you, too. Don't let the fear of having one door slammed in your face keep you from going to the 19 who are just waiting for you. If that happens, do like Jesus did and kick the dust from your sandals and keep walking.

An evangelizer's job is to invite. It is their job to accept. If you would like copies of the material I used, e-mail me at [MissFire2003@aol.com](mailto:MissFire2003@aol.com).

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