

# **Welcome Back to Church**

*An Idea from Bethlehem's Treasure Chest of Ideas*

Do members of your parish tend to make themselves scarce during the lazy days of summer? Why not pick a theme to build your welcome back gathering for children and families. Here is an idea to get your congregation back into a fall frame of mind!

## ***Part of the Puzzle***

Playing on Paul's image of the body as one but with many members found in 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, have puzzles made of your church and send everyone a piece of the puzzle. Ask parish members to come and help put it together for your welcome back program. Undoubtedly some pieces will be missing. This is an opportunity to make the point that we need everyone to make the church complete. When a piece is missing, we don't have the whole picture. Similarly, when members are missing or not sharing their gifts a parish is not whole. We all have a job to do and need each other. We are inter-related.

Other parts of the program may include: sharing a meal or snack, introducing and commissioning teachers, catechists and classes, taking a church tour and sharing the story of the symbols located throughout the church or the history of past benefactors.