

A Tasty (and Evangelizing) Way to Take a Trip around the World

Most communities today are culturally, ethnically, and religiously diverse. This diversity usually raises our curiosity about people of other countries and cultures. Perhaps one of the best ways to experience a culture and gain insight into its people is through food. Consider an "International Dinner" in your parish as a fun and informative event.

If space allows, a classroom in the church's education area can be dedicated to an ethnic group represented in your parish. This might include: Filipino, Middle Eastern, Polish, Cajun, Italian, Irish, and Spanish rooms. Each room could be decorated according to the cultural group represented and include background music specific to the culture. Members of each cultural group would prepare foods typical of their culture for all to taste and enjoy.

As people wander from room to room, they fill their plates with delicious foods from all over the world. Tables set up and decorated in a nearby social hall could provide an opportunity for people to sit together and eat, as well as to socialize and compare notes about the different foods and cultures.

If individual rooms are not available, a large social hall could easily accommodate different cultural groups in designated areas around the hall, with tables for eating and socializing arranged in the middle of the hall.

You might want to "widen your tent," and host a community-wide "International Dinner," and invite local churches and community groups to participate. You never know what doors this might open to your church.