

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Team

November 20, 2025

Notes

Present: **Holy Cross/Mother of Sorrows:** John Owens, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard,

St. John the Evangelist: Marianne Katz, **St. Lawrence:** Karen Bunker, **St. Leo the Great:**

Joan Rohr, **Facilitator/link to the Steering Committee:** Karen Rinefierd

Guests: Michelle Giordano and Michele Scatigno (Our Mother of Sorrows)

Excused **St. Mark:** Carolyn DelVecchio

Purpose of this group: to share parish evangelization best practices, to design and implement shared evangelization projects

Target audiences:

1. Members of our parishes—helping them deepen their relationship with God.
2. Members of our parishes—helping them talk to others about their faith without judging or criticizing.
3. Members of our parishes who pulled back during Covid and those no longer participating.

Opening prayer: Col 1:12-20, faith sharing through Lectio Divina, intercessory prayers, the Lord's Prayer

2026 Lent retreat

- Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 pm, "Encountering the Heart of Jesus" (Lisa Lickona)
- Monday, March 23 at 6:30 pm, "Casting Fire Upon the Earth: The Radicality of the Gospel and the Mission of the Laity" (Matthew Kuhner)
- Both will be held at St. John the Evangelist, Greece
- Karen R. met this week with the two speakers to begin working on this retreat. The rough idea of each day: begin with prayer/music, 45-minute presentation, 10-12 minutes of silence, time for questions and responses to what has been said, closing prayer. We need to time this out, but our committee agreed that one and a half hours total should be the plan and that we should advertise the end time.
- Lisa asked about ending with adoration. We will leave that to the retreat committee as well as deciding if there will be refreshments.
- The speakers asked that this committee and the 7-parish vocations committee give them a list of bullet points of what we would really love to see.
 - Marianne: I would want to end with some take aways to deepen our relationship with God.
 - Marianne shared information about the USCCB which appeared in the *Catholic Courier* on 11/12/25: As the U.S. marks its 250th anniversary next year, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To help Catholics prepare for the consecration, the USCCB plans to develop prayer resources, including a novena that

will lead up to the solemnity of the Sacred Heart. Karen will share this information with Lisa Lickona.

- Karen B. said that she has participated in two of the Saturday half-day retreats on the saints which Lisa has led at St. Bernard's. They begin with breakfast and people can stay afterward for lunch at a minimal cost. She has found these enriching.
- There was discussion about whether to offer childcare. Any volunteers who staff it would need to meet the safe environment requirements. We could ask teens to be a part of this but there would also need to be one or more adults present. Karen B. noted that children are often present at the St. Bernard's retreats, some as young as two years old. There is a small cry room in the back of St. John's church where parents could take their children if need be. Childcare, if offered, could be in the parish center. We will leave this to the retreat committee for a decision but, if childcare is offered, its availability should be included in the publicity.
- Karen R. will reach out to the pastoral leaders to designate one or two people to serve on a retreat committee. Rose Marie and Karen B. will also be a part of it.

Conversation with Michelle Giordano and Michele Scatigno

- Our Mother of Sorrows has started a café in the former choir room (to the left of the sanctuary). It is currently offered once monthly after the 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday Masses. They are looking for ideas for that and other uses for the room. They have used Formed for adult education but not a lot of people are comfortable serving as facilitators.
- Karen B. shared that she is compiling a list of bible study resources so that parishes can borrow from another parish. She said that the Greece schools have an online list of their music and that the music is housed in a central location. Karen currently has lists of resources from St. Lawrence and St. Mark which she will share with our committee.
- Rose Marie said that St. Charles had a successful set of presentations on parts of the Mass. They are currently doing two different bible studies, one more academic and one with more faith sharing.
- Several of our parishes have used tent cards at coffee hours, dinners by the Knights of Columbus, etc. One has on it "where have you found God today?" Other table tents have information and a QR code for the Roc Catholics Northwest website.

Outreach to parents after the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation

- Joan shared that St. Leo's has new mothers' and fathers' groups. Michele noted that she helps with pre-baptism formation and possibly a mothers' group could be formed.
- Karen R. had presented in the agenda the question, "How can we go about this in conversation with the catechetical leaders/youth ministers without adding to or conflicting with their work?"
- Decision to canvas the catechetical leaders: Do you have any follow up for the sacraments? Any thoughts for the future?
 - James Sarkis/Maura Spencer (Holy Cross, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Charles, St. Lawrence): Rose Marie
 - Kristine Burgio (St. Leo's and St. Mark's): Joan
 - St. John's: Marianne thinks the Paolettis lead baptism preparation and will speak with them as well as Crissy Simone.

Promoting the Roc Catholics Northwest website

- The Advent flier includes information about the website, some of its content, and a QR code.
- Little further discussion other than making sure there is a link to the website from all of the parish websites and on parish bulletins.

Advent and Lent fliers

- Advent flyer out this weekend
- Committee members to note how the flyer is distributed at their parish. Karen R. will check parish websites.
- Timeline for Lent
 - Request data: Jan 2(Friday) - Jan 5 (Monday)
 - All info to Marianne by Jan 14
 - Final copy review to parish leadership & submitters Jan 26
 - To parishes for printing Feb 4
 - Publication weekend Feb 14-15

Closing prayer: Hail Mary

Future meetings:

- Thursday, January 15, 5:30 pm in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence
 - Opening prayer will be sharing “Where did you find God today?” followed by the Lord’s Prayer
- Thursday, February 19, 5:30 pm in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence