

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Team

November 30, 2023

Notes

Present: **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard, **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne Katz, **St. Leo the Great:** Joan Rohr, **St. Mark:** Carolyn DelVecchio, **Facilitator/link to the Pastoral Planning Task Force:** Karen Rinefierd

Excused: **Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows:** John Owens, **St. John the Evangelist:** Dominick Zarcone, **St. Lawrence:** Patricia Urbinelli

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.

Objectives to help parishioners deepen their relationship with God:

1. Publish a list of good electronic resources for Catholics
2. Advent/Lent event for all 7 parishes
3. Answer “where did you find God today?” with responses shared
4. Communicating opportunities for Adoration and Bible Study

Opening prayer: 1 Cor. 1:3-9, intercessory prayers, the Lord’s Prayer

Advent flyer advertising events offered in the 7 parishes and open to all

- Being distributed the weekend of December 2-3
- Many compliments already from those who have seen it or learned that the flyer was coming.
- Action: Karen asked that evangelization team members let her know how the flyers are distributed at their parishes. She will check the parish websites.
- We will learn from this effort how to improve future advertising of events at the 7 parishes. The shared website—hopefully up by Lent 2024—will help!

Creating a list of good electronic resources for Catholics--deferred until next meeting

Looking ahead to Lent 2024

Shared Lenten retreat

- March 17, 18, 19 with presenters Fr. Ed Palumbos, Michael Sauter, and Damian Zynda
- Many details not worked out yet, for example:
 - Who will work with the presenters to determine the overall topic, each date’s subtopic, and the presenter on 3/17, 3/18 and 3/19 as well as the format for each session (e.g., presentation/questions, quiet time for reflection, group interaction)? [Update after the pastoral leaders met: Karen is convening the three presenters on 1/8]

- Will there be daytime sessions on Monday and Tuesday or just evening? (Many of our parishioners are reluctant to drive at night.) What time will the retreat begin? [Update after the pastoral leaders met: there will be early afternoon sessions on Monday and Tuesday; times not yet set]
- Will there be refreshments?
- Which churches will host each session? [Update after the pastoral leaders met: all three days/evenings of the retreat will be at St. Lawrence]
- Is it possible to livestream or record the retreat (all parts or in the event of poor weather)?
- Who will create and lead opening prayer? Will there be music?
- The evangelization team is willing to help with this retreat but needs direction from the pastoral leaders:
 - What do they want us to do?
 - Create the flyer? Bulletin announcement? Take responsibility for advertising?
 - Coordinate refreshments (if the decision is to have them)?
- Action: Karen will contact the pastoral leaders with these questions and to determine who will convene the three presenters and work with them.

Flyer of Lenten activities similar to what we have created for Advent

- Because Lenten is longer and parishes generally schedule many more events, it is likely that the flyer will be 4 pages (11x17 paper folded in half).
- Timeline
 - With Ash Wednesday being early in 2024 (February 14), our timeline is quite tight.
 - Friday, 1/5: all information sent to Karen from leaders/staff to be organized by category and sent to Marianne Katz
 - Monday, 1/8: all information needs to be received by Marianne Katz who will create the first draft of the flyer.
 - Monday, 1/22: “almost finished” draft goes to pastoral leaders, staffs, and evangelization team for review and any needed corrections.
 - Monday, 1/29: final flyer goes to parishes with bulletin announcement.
 - Weekend of 2/10-11: flyer goes to parishioners.
- Categories to include:
 - Ash Wednesday Masses/Services
 - Additional sacramental opportunities including penance services
 - Hours churches will be open after Holy Thursday Mass for adoration/visitation (7 churches visitation/pilgrimage)
 - Events for the whole family
 - Events for teens (including Ignite)
 - Events for seniors
 - Engaging your mind and your heart (e.g., the 7-parish Lenten retreat, bible studies, speakers, book discussions)
 - Stations of the Cross
 - St. Joseph’s tables
 - Fish fries
 - We will not include the Triduum or Easter Sunday Masses—the thinking being that parishioners will go to their own parish.
 - If there is room in the flyer, we will include regular times for Adoration.
- Specific information we need for each item:

- Name of event/activity
- Description/what to expect
- Date and time
- Specific location on the parish campus
- Suggestion: that we create a separate document “My Lenten Journey” where each parishioner can, after looking through the offerings at their own parish and among the seven parishes, list what they intend to do during Lent to enrich their faith and serve others
- Action: Karen will email the pastoral leaders and parish staff members who contributed to the Advent flyer to give them the 1/5 deadline and ask for submissions.

Ideas for the future

- Create a program that individuals could use to pray the Stations of the Cross on their own.
- Publish a list of the social ministries of each parish.

Closing prayer: Hail Mary

Next meeting: Thursday, January 18, tentatively in room 7 of the Borromeo Ministry Center at St. Charles, 6:30 pm