

**Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Team**  
**February 19, 2026**

**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

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:** “Where did you see God today?” followed by intercessory prayers and the Our Father

**Miscellaneous:** In response to a question from one of the parishes, there was a discussion of what the churches are doing for security during Mass.

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

- What each parish is currently doing:
  - Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows: Donna Petrella, the Baptismal Coordinator, currently sends a letter to parents after the baptism of their child. The letter encourages them to attend Mass with their child to grow spiritually and meet other parents. It also encourages them to enroll their child in faith formation or Holy Cross School when they reach school age.
  - St. Charles Borromeo: recently restarted Child Church.
  - St. John the Evangelist: does no follow up.
  - St. Lawrence: currently sends out a card to the family 1 year after the Baptism, inviting them to attend Mass, etc.
  - St. Mark’s: no information.
  - St. Leo the Great: The evangelization committee has been brainstorming with Kristine Burgio but there have been no ideas so far on what to do after Baptism. They have both a Moms Group and a Dads Group.
- Joan suggested that parishes could let parents know about the Family Zone newsletter prepared by the diocese so that they can subscribe.
- Ways parishes engage children in early childhood.
  - St. Leo’s offers movies for different age groups and a story time.
  - Marianne read about a ministry called “Church Mice” where children clean up the pews after Masses. She thought it was a great idea.

- On Palm Sunday St. John's has a procession with children at two Masses. The parish also has a children's pageant of the Nativity at the early vigil Mass on Christmas Eve.
- Karen R. shared that her parish involves young children from preschool through First Communion age with passing the collection baskets. A dad or mom often helps the youngest with this. The baskets are then handed to an adult.
- Our committee needs more members and especially some younger ones.
- There could be a survey of parents of younger children asking, "What attracts you to church?" "What would you like the church to do for you as you raise your child?" Joan noted that St. Leo's is preparing a survey of parents with children in faith formation classes.
- Our committee needs to learn more about what happens in baptism preparation at each of the parishes. Do all of the parishes have classes? What happens at them? Is there a curriculum or book being used? Action: Each evangelization team member will contact those doing baptism preparation at their parish and ask these questions.
- [Information gathered after the meeting: Fr. Chase said that currently the parents at St. Lawrence meet with Deacon David Squilla for a class on the Sacrament. He also said this is all about to change as they are working on a plan for multiple churches in the area to collaborate and have several opportunities per year (possibly four) for parents to attend. They can pick a date for their child's Baptism once they have attended a class. This may affect our efforts going forward as to how our committee would be able to be involved.]

#### **Other**

- John shared that the Holy Cross evangelization/stewardship committee is creating a photo page to show all that is happening in the parish. Once it is done, he will pass it on to evangelization team members.

#### **How Advent and Lent fliers were distributed**

- Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows: through flocknotes, on the parish website, copies at the entrances with the bulletins, through social media
- St. Charles Borromeo: as bulletin insert, on the parish website
- St. John the Evangelist: as bulletin insert
- St. Lawrence: copies next to the bulletins and Lenten books, on the parish website
- St. Leo the Great: incorporated into the bulletin but tiny, link to the ROC Catholics Northwest website on the parish website
- St. Mark's: not sure (since Carolyn isn't here), link to the ROC Catholics Northwest website on the parish website

#### **Agenda items for next meeting:**

- Share what we learned about baptism preparation at each parish.
- Focus on outreach to parents between baptism and the beginning of school-age faith formation
- Brainstorm based on what we learn

**Closing prayer:** Hail Mary

#### **Future meetings:**

- Thursday, April 23, 5:30 pm in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence
- Thursday, May 21, 5:30 pm in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence

