

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Team

April 4, 2024

Notes

Present: **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard, **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne Katz, Dominick Zarcone, **St. Lawrence:** Karen Bunker, **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. 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: Acts 4:32-35, intercessory prayers, the Lord’s Prayer

Beginning work on a plan for the coming year

- Karen shared Patricia’s suggestion for something we could do this next year: sharing personal stories of our experiences with Jesus and our Church. Patricia offered to share how her faith and trust in the sacraments (specifically penance, anointing of the sick, and the Eucharist) literally saved her from suicide and kept her alive. She noted that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and September is Suicide Awareness Month. She could do this in either of these months or at any other time.
- Dominick had called Karen R. this afternoon with his own idea, and he described it tonight: In the New Testament there are many examples of people sharing the Good News by speaking publicly—this is powerful and empowers others. During the week before Pentecost or during other liturgical seasons, we could hold an event where a person from each parish did a 5-minute witness talk followed by their serving on a panel answering questions from the audience.
- Patricia’s story could be one of these.
- We could start with members of this committee sharing their own witness talks and then expanding the process to other parishioners.
- We could videotape the presentations and then post them.
- When Karen R. is back from her trips, she will reach out to the pastoral leaders to see what they want to do about arranging speakers for a future Lenten retreat. Our experience is that speakers

from beyond the diocese need to be scheduled as much as a couple of years ahead. Patricia Scouten had previously coordinated a retreat committee when the E. Greece/Charlotte parishes shared a Lent retreat, and she is willing to do so again.

- Karen B. shared that a friend of hers told her that Holy Trinity, Webster handed out vials of holy water at the Easter Vigil and at the Easter Sunday Masses. St. John's had small bottles of holy water available for each family to take home from Easter Masses. Bottles were filled and labeled with an Easter date and short message. We could supplement this practice with a resource on how and when to use holy water in family life, i.e. bless children.
- We had wanted to create a worksheet to go out with the Lenten flyer to encourage and help parishioners to decide what they would do to grow their faith during Lent. We ran out of time this past Lent but, if we put together a plan of what we intend to accomplish over the year, we could better manage the time required to get things done.

Relationship with the Pastoral Planning Task Force

- The question was raised of how the task force thinks we are doing. Karen R. responded that she has only received positive feedback from the pastoral leaders and the rest of the task force. One pastor commented that "this is a group that gets things done!"
- Evangelization was an area mentioned frequently at the 2/22 staff gathering. Karen intends to include it on the next task force agenda to learn how they want to proceed. One of her suggestions was to devote a future task force meeting to evangelization and include this 7-parish evangelization team as well as those at the parish level working on evangelization.

Discussion regarding target audiences

- One target audience for our efforts will remain helping our parishioners deepen their relationship with God.
- A second will remain helping our parishioners talk to others about their faith without judging or criticizing. This could be as simple as directions for blessing a child with holy water.
- Our third will be expanded beyond parishioners who pulled back during Covid to include those distant from the church (i.e. not participating). Rose Marie shared the process for Remembering Church that was done at Holy Name of Jesus many years ago.

Homework before next meeting

- Before Thursday, April 18, send your suggestions for each target audience to Karen R.
- Include the target audience and a brief description.
- Karen will put them into a spreadsheet and indicate who suggested each.

Closing prayer: Hail Mary

Next two meetings:

- **Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 pm (Borromeo Ministry Center, room 7)**
- **Thursday, June 6 at 6:30 pm (Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence)**