

## Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization

May 21, 2026

### Notes

Present: **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Michelle Giordano, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard, **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne Katz, **St. Lawrence:** Karen Bunker, **St. Mark:** Carolyn DelVecchio, **Facilitator/link to the Steering Committee:** Karen Rinefied

Excused **Holy Cross:** Ed DiPonzio, John Owens, **St. Leo the Great:** Joan Rohr

**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

#### **Membership on this Evangelization Committee--status of conversations with pastoral leaders**

- Our Mother of Sorrows—Michelle has agreed to come to meetings until one or two permanent representatives from the parish are in place. Karen Rinefied asked for recommendations from two staff members and passed them on to Fr. Bill Coffas for consideration and invitation. Michelle will also ask at the pastoral council meeting.
- St. Charles—Rose Marie asked for ideas from fellow choir members who had no suggestions. She will talk with Fr. John Firpo soon.
- St. John’s—Marianne has been away and not at church enough to do this.
- St. Lawrence—Karen Bunker has been away and has not yet spoken with Fr. Lee Chase.
- St. Leo—Joan was not at this meeting for an update.
- St. Mark’s—Karen R. asked a staff member for some recommendations which she passed on to Dcn. Frank Pettrone. He responded that he is working on this. Carolyn mentioned the need for new members at pastoral council and will also reach out individually to people.

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

- What we know about what happens at some of our parishes:
  - Maura Spencer sends a postcard to parents at St. Lawrence after each sacrament is celebrated, including an invitation to participate in parish life. We do not know if she has extended this practice to the other three parishes that share faith formation.
  - Donna Petrella sends a letter to parishioners at Holy Cross and Our Mother of Sorrows. Michelle brought copies: Baptism (encouraging them to enroll their child, when old enough, in faith formation classes or Holy Cross School), First Holy Communion (encouraging them to bring their child to Mass and help them grow in faith; inviting

children to become altar servers), Confirmation (encouraging them to bring their child to Mass and help them grow in faith), Marriage (encouraging them to come to Mass), Funerals (after the funeral and one year later). All letters include the schedule of weekend Masses, reconciliation, and Adoration.

- No more work was done on this initiative at this meeting.

### **Parish news**

- Information was shared about the Ignite youth ministry program at Holy Cross which is an excellent example of supporting the faith growth of young people. Our parishes are involved as well as many teens coming from throughout the Rochester area. Ignite began as a monthly Friday evening gathering under the leadership of Fr. Joseph Martusciello. The evening begins with basketball, dodgeball, and board games; then pizza with a presentation and conversation, ending in the church where confession is offered. It has expanded over the years to include a similar monthly program, Impact, offered at St. Kateri with teens invited to both.
- St. Charles now has a welcome table including registration forms. So far the evangelization committee helps with it and they are trying to put together a schedule to staff it. There are cards in the pews containing information about the parish and encouraging people to submit prayer requests. These go to the evangelization committee.
- With her marketing background, Carolyn said that she would create a template for a “gist card.”
- Our Mother of Sorrows has had a Servant’s Desk which is staffed at every weekend Mass. People can ask questions and make Mass requests. The monthly Café is held after both Sunday Masses. The response has been very positive with a growing number of people offering to help and donating food.
- With Memorial Day approaching, St. Lawrence offered parishioners a chance to honor veterans through sponsoring a flag to be placed on parish grounds. Fifty flags have been erected with donations to go to a Gold Family.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Karen R. agreed to ask the administrator, Dcn. David Squilla, how many hits we have had recently on the ROC Catholics Northwest website.
- Karen B. shared that Lisa Lickona has taken a position at McQuaid High School.

### **What should we focus on going forward?**

- Ideas discussed at the last meeting:
  - Survey/individual conversations/focus group of parents with children: “Why are you here?” “Why are you bringing your little ones to church?” “What entices you to come?” “How can we communicate with others to invite them?”
  - Arrange subscriptions to the diocesan “Family Zone” newsletter for families in faith formation or sacramental preparation.
- Discussion of ideas from the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis
  - Joan liked having a Love Out Loud, emphasizing love, during the month of February and having a mini-silent retreat on Holy Saturday.
  - Carolyn liked the idea of a lemonade Sunday after Masses.
  - Marianne said that none of the suggestions grabbed her.

- Carolyn brought copies of a proposal by Jeff Rice from St. Mark's for a Seven Churches Visitation on Holy Thursday.
  - Initial comments:
    - Karen B.: I only get to 3 churches that evening. It would be challenging to get to 7 the same night. Maybe do this on Corpus Christi or Pentecost?
    - Rose Marie: Maybe if the Lenten retreat were held over two evenings in two different locations (one more east and one more west) we could incorporate this over the two evenings.
    - Marianne: Perhaps over the course of Lent we could offer seven sessions, one each on the 7 last words of Jesus. We could profile one parish each week and encourage people to make their own pilgrimage over the course of Lent.
    - Karen B.: We could focus on one word at each parish and accompany that with prayer and adoration.
  - Action: Carolyn will invite Jeff to join us at one of our meetings—June 25 if that is good for him--to discuss his proposal further.
- Since three committee members were absent and two had been away for an extended period, most members had not brought to the meeting a specific proposal for the future.

**Future meetings:**

- Thursday, June 25, 5:30 pm in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence
- Tentatively Thursday, August 6 (action: Karen R. will check with those absent if this date is good for them)

**Closing prayer:** Hail Mary