

Evangelization Committee of the Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes

June 25, 2026

Notes

Present: **Holy Cross:** John Owens, **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Santa McKenna, **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 Rinefield, **Guest:** Jeff Rice (St. Mark's)

Excused **Holy Cross:** Ed DiPonzio, **St. Mark's:** 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.

Introductions and Welcome to Santa McKenna (new member from Our Mother of Sorrows) and Jeff Rice (from St. Mark's--guest)

Opening prayer: "Where did you see God today?" followed by intercessory prayers and the Our Father

ROC Catholics Northwest website usage

- Karen R. distributed data (for January 1-June 22) received from the web administrator, Dcn. David Squilla. There were 5964 visitors, 9859 views, and an average session duration of over 4 minutes. There was a bounce rate of 87%. (A bounce rate is the percentage of visitors who land on a website and leave immediately without viewing any other pages or taking further action.)
- Not surprisingly, most people visited our website around Ash Wednesday and during early Lent.

Pilgrims of Hope proposal from Jeff Rice and Carolyn DelVecchio

- Prior to the meeting, members received an updated proposal for this initiative as well as a template for a Pilgrim Passport. The vision behind this idea is to encourage parishioners to encounter Christ through prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and visitation at each of our seven parishes. The Pilgrim Passport would include photos of each church, a place to fill in the date the church was visited, and a question for prayer reflection at each church. Stamps could be affixed as people visited the churches.
- Jeff Rice spoke of the nourishment that comes through Adoration. We would introduce more people to the practice of Adoration and provide quiet time with Jesus Christ.
- Comments/discussion:

- We already invite people through the Lent flyer to visit other churches on Holy Thursday by advertising the hours each church is open for Adoration after the Holy Thursday Mass.
- Other times mentioned: Corpus Christi, the Easter season, during the summer. Although no decision was made, members seemed to lean towards the Easter season, offering one or more parishes each week.
- We should have greeters welcoming people as they enter each church.
- We should provide information about each church.
- Some “walls” to doing this: the churches already have regular times for Adoration. Most churches are not open all day. We would need someone to be present at all times adoring Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. This might be accomplished by a sign up or by someone who volunteers to stay for the entire time. We will need a staff member or authorized person to open and close the church. Ministerial participation is needed to place and then remove the Blessed Sacrament.
- Each pastoral leader may want to open and/or close Adoration with particular rituals.
- We should promote the Pilgrimage to families within our two Catholic schools as well as faith formation and youth ministry.
- This proposal has merit and is doable.
- The flip side of the passport could contain information about all of the parishes (e.g. Mass and confession times and regular times for Adoration), link to the ROC Catholics Northwest website, suggestions for prayer).
- Those present liked the idea of a passport with stickers given out at each church. Perhaps those who fill their passport by visiting all 7 churches could be given a “reward” like a religious book or a candle.
- There was a discussion about how long there should be Adoration. 3 hours? People could stay as long as they wanted—10 minutes, an hour, or more. We need to be flexible—e.g. if the priest or deacon wants to offer Benediction.
- If we have the Pilgrimage during the Easter season, we could choose a different passage from the Acts of the Apostles as part of the suggested prayer at each church. These readings are about the growth of the early Church. This would actually be a pilgrimage through Easter.
- To economize on paper, the prayer aid should be small.
- A question was asked regarding whether we need to run this idea past the pastoral leaders before doing anything more. Karen R. responded that we should do more work before presenting this to the leaders. Right now, they are being asked to give input for the Lenten retreat as well as several possible initiatives from the Vocation Committee. She can’t imagine any of them saying “no” to this general concept since they all value Adoration and want others to experience their church.
- More work will be done on this at the next meeting.

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

- St. Charles—Rose Marie has spoken with Fr. John Firpo who is thinking about possibilities and who will get back to her.
- St. John’s—Marianne has approached someone who is praying about this and might come on a trial basis. If this person is open to joining the committee, Marianne will ask Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu.

- St. Lawrence—Karen B. has not yet spoken with Fr. Lee Chase with a recent death in her family.
- St. Leo—Joan said that there has been no progress in finding a new member because of the transition underway with Fr. Bob Ring's new assignment and other committees looking for volunteers. In July she plans to network at a parish event for those in OCIA and new parishioners.
- St. Mark's—no update. [After the meeting Carolyn reported that Katie Boggs is interested in joining the evangelization committee once her schedule lightens up from her current commitment at the parish.]

What should we focus on going forward?

- We plan to do Advent and Lent fliers again. Action: Marianne will put together a timeline with deadlines. [Done right after the meeting.]
- Gather different groups of people involved in the same ministry? The June 2025 gathering of people involved in some aspect of evangelization was very positive. More recently those leading social ministry efforts at St. Lawrence invited social ministry chairpersons to a meeting where information and ideas were exchanged.
- We should revisit our target audiences and do something with #2 (helping parishioners talk to others about their faith without judging or criticizing). We could give them tools and ideas to equip them to talk about their own faith with others in a way that doesn't rub others the wrong way but invites them in. We have done one initiative addressing this target audience: encourage parish committees to begin their meetings with sharing where members have recently seen God.

Future meetings:

- Thursday, August 6, 5:30 pm, in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence
- Thursday, September 10, 5:30 pm, in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence

Closing prayer: Hail Mary