

## Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Initiative

June 29, 2023

### Notes

Present: **Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows:** John Owens, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard, **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne Katz, **St. Lawrence:** Kathy Edsall, Patricia Urbinelli, **St. Leo the Great:** Joan Rohr, **St. Mark:** Carolyn DelVecchio, **Facilitator/link to the Pastoral Planning Task Force:** Karen Rinefierd

Excused: **St. John the Evangelist:** Dominick Zarcone

**Opening prayer:** Matthew 16:13-19, faithsharing, intercessions, the Lord's Prayer

Karen distributed copies of the articles that were included in a New York Times 5-part series about the current religious landscape in the United States: 1) Lots of Americans Are Losing Their Religion. Have You? 2) 'Christianity's Got a Branding Problem' 3) Why Do People Lose Their Religion? More than 7,000 Readers Shared Their Stories. 4) The Largest and Fastest Religious Shift in America Is Well Underway 5) What Churches Offer That 'Nones' Still Long For.

### Sharing what your parish is doing in any area related to evangelization

- **Holy Cross:** Much of this work is spearheaded by the Stewardship and Evangelization Committee: a Rosary Crusade, Divine Renovation beginning in September (with a survey of parishioners who already participate to learn what they see as the strengths and shortcomings of the parish), connecting the school more closely to the parish—they are aiming for one Mass per month with students taking roles at Mass, belonging to the local Community Association, creating a brochure about the parish to include in the materials available at the port, building a Little Library outside the church on Lake Ave. With **Our Mother of Sorrow:** Heart to Heart ministry links parishioners through correspondence with those in nursing homes, ministry to the homebound and those in nursing homes.
- **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne is not aware of anything that is specifically focused on evangelization. Dominick did a series on evangelization a while ago.
- **St. Leo:** Joan distributed two handouts: 1) a description of the Evangelization Committee, its mission, events with the potential to evangelize, and a list of additional resources, 2) the evangelization goals that are part of the parish's 5-year plan.
- **St. Mark:** Carolyn distributed bulletins. She recommended the book "The Evangelization Equation: The Who, What and How" by Fr. James Wehner, STD.
- **St. Charles Borromeo:** an active ministry to those in nursing homes and the homebound resumed after Covid.
- **St. Lawrence:** Kathy brought copies of recent bulletins. St. Lawrence also has an active ministry to those in nursing homes (Keeping in Touch).

### Prioritizing target audiences for our work

The draft list of possible target audiences, mentioned at the last meeting, was reviewed. "Those parishioners in active ministries—so that they exude joy" was added.

### Homework:

- Send Karen your top three target audiences from the list of possible groups in order of rank (first, second, third).

- Once target audiences are identified, research and brainstorm possible approaches for each and bring to the next meeting. Karen encouraged talking to others to generate ideas and doing research online.

**Next meeting: Thursday, August 17, 6:30 pm, at St. Charles Borromeo**