

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Team

August 11, 2025

Notes

Present: **Holy Cross/Our 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 Rinefied

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: Heb. 12:1-4, faithsharing, intercessory prayers, the Lord's Prayer

Miscellaneous

- Marianne attended the afternoon portion of the evangelization workshop at the pastoral center on June 25. The afternoon was a presentation about an OSV program to assist parishes in engaging parishioners and getting people back to church. She reported that much of the presentation was encouraging parishes to use their program, but there was one suggestion that was valuable and one she had not heard before: If you want to invite people to come and check out your church, invite them to the most active, vibrant thing you can—e.g. Christmas Mass, Ash Wednesday, a special Advent event. It helps to have a “hook” to encourage them to come back.
- Joan shared some activities that St. Leo's is planning. A ministry leader will be doing a one-minute presentation about their particular ministry at Masses after Communion, and the evangelization subcommittee of pastoral council will be doing one of them. They are planning a “bring a friend to Mass” weekend with an emphasis at the 10:30 am Mass. This will be combined with Nametag Sunday where there will be red nametags for guests and blue for parishioners. At the coffee hour afterwards, clergy and parishioners will be encouraged to reach out to guests.
- Karen Bunker is gathering information about fall bible studies at the parishes which we will post on the Roc Catholics Northwest website.
- Karen B. shared that Patty Amico at St. Lawrence wants to gather people involved in social ministry at the 7 parishes to share what they are doing—a gathering similar to what we did in June with those involved in evangelization efforts. Action: Karen B. will ask Patty to write up a description of what she is proposing which we could share with others. Karen R. will inform pastoral leaders, and evangelization team members will send Karen B. the names of possible people to invite from their own parish.

Develop a list of resources for grandparents to share with their grandchildren

- Timeline:
 - **Tuesday, August 19:** final flyer to the parishes for printing. Karen R. will also send it to the staff of the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis since they provided much of the content.
 - **Weekend of August 30-31:** bulletin article letting parishioners know that the flyer is coming.
 - **Weekend of September 6-7:** flyer distributed at parishes (as a bulletin insert or in the same way each parish shares the Advent and Lent flyers. It will also be available on the Roc Catholics Northwest website, and we will ask parishes to have a link on their websites. We can ask the social media people for each parish to spread the word, but September is usually a busy time with many parish events to publicize.
- Comments about the draft flyer:
 - It's colorful and attractive.
 - It includes many links to articles and materials, and some grandparents may not be able to access these. However, the hints and encouragement to share faith with grandchildren are valuable to all, and many grandparents are adept with computers. If necessary, they can ask their grandchildren for help!
- Karen R. said that she would send a pulpit announcement out to parishes, although parishes might not choose to use it on September 6-7 since there is so much going on with the beginning of the school year. She asked about whether she should send out a blessing of grandparents, too, and asked if the various parishes blessed mothers on Mother's Day and fathers on Father's Day. Most did this or acknowledged them at Mass, and those present thought this was a good idea. Marianne shared that grandparents have been blessed on the feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim, and she noted that the USCCB has a blessing for grandparents.
- The wording for the flyer was finalized including minor changes suggested at this meeting and wording changes suggested by Carolyn and her friend beforehand. **Action:** Marianne will do the final version of the flyer by next week.
- Marianne noted that she purchased the book Catholic Grandparents Handbook by Lorene Hanley Duquin which she took on her recent trip to visit her son's family. She said that it is full of practical advice and that the author is from Buffalo. We thought that this could be an excellent book to use in a grandparent discussion group.

Begin work on 2025-2026 actions beyond continuing the Advent & Lent fliers and refreshing/continuing to advertise the Digital Library

- Marianne agreed to create a timeline for both the Advent and Lent fliers. After the meeting she set the following dates:
 - **Advent flier**
 - Request Data: Sept 30/Oct 1
 - All info to Marianne by Oct 14
 - Final review by parish leadership and submitters: Nov 3
 - To parishes for printing Nov 12
 - Publish weekend of Nov 22-23
 - **Lent flier**
 - Request data: Jan 2(Friday) - Jan 5 (Monday)

- All info to Marianne by Jan 14
- Final copy review to parish leadership & submitters Jan 26
- To parishes for printing Feb 4
- Publication weekend Feb 14-15
- We will defer any updating of the Digital Library until Carolyn is back.
- Each member shared 3-5 ideas of what we should do (ideas from the June evangelization gathering or their own):

1) Promote the Roc Catholics Northwest website

2) Ask parish leaders to agree to a 7-parish retreat/mission

- Karen R. shared that Fr. Joe Catanise recently attended a retreat for clergy by the Acts XXIX (Rescue Project) team in Steubenville and recommended that our parishes sponsor one by the same team. After all the pastoral leaders agreed, Karen reached out to them. Although they ordinarily don't do parish retreats and are booked into 2027, they said they would discuss this proposal. Karen has a follow up phone conversation with them set for this Thursday.
- Maybe one on our east side and the other on the west with a Mass together at the end
- Another possibility would be to schedule a weekend retreat at the Notre Dame Retreat House for parishioners of the 7 parishes.

3) Give people concrete ideas about how to share their faith with others

4) Share among the 7 parishes resources each parish has purchased for bible studies, etc.

5) Sponsor a Lenten series

- We could offer the same program multiple times in multiple locations at different times of day.

6) Focus on youth and/or young adults

- A gathering across the 7 parishes? Advertise what is already in place? Getting the word out to those in their 20s/30s can be a challenge.
- Many of the parishes already send their youth to the Ignite program at Holy Cross. It's offered twice monthly and includes basketball or another activity, socializing over pizza, and Adoration.
- St. Leo's (Anya Rosien) sponsors Trinitas for young adults with Brockport and Spencerport. There are other gatherings for young adults in the Rochester area and Mark Capellazi in the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis coordinates young adult ministry.
- We could invite Anya and some young adults who participate in Trinitas to come to one of our meetings, share what they've learned, and answer our questions. We could give them some questions ahead of time.

7) Increase the membership of the Evangelization Committee (possibly from those who attended the June evangelization gathering)

- Committee members should feel free to reach out to people they know and invite them to join our group
- 8) Sponsor a “Heart to Heart” evangelization workshop (a workshop developed by Rose Marie and Deacon Dick Lombard and presented in many locations). They offered it on one day (9 am – 3 pm) or over two evenings.
 - 9) Promote grief ministries offered in our parishes or even beyond.
 - 10) Hold a Catholic Scholastic Books Fair—maybe in conjunction with one of our schools.
 - 11) Outreach to parents after Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations
 - 12) Organize a book club
 - 13) Hold a movie/popcorn event for families
 - Holy Cross and St. Leo’s have held these.

Homework: Over the next two weeks flesh out any of these suggestions and send to Karen R. Then we will prioritize our top 3.

Closing prayer: Hail Mary

Future meetings

- Thursday, September 25, 5:30 pm in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence
- Thursday, October 30, 5:30 pm in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence

After the meeting, Rose Marie distributed copies of a flyer about the Stained Glass Expo at St. Charles on September 11 and related how this part of the parish’s anniversary celebration came to be.