

Evangelization Committee of the Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes

August 6, 2026

Notes

Present: **Holy Cross:** John Owens, **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Santa McKenna, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard, **St. Lawrence:** Karen Bunker, **St. Leo the Great:** Joan Rohr, **St. Mark's:** Carolyn DelVecchio, Jeff Rice, **Facilitator/link to the Steering Committee:** Karen Rinefierd, Guest and prospective member: John Lacek (St. John the Evangelist)

Excused **Holy Cross:** Ed DiPonzio, **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne Katz

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 John Lacek (guest and prospective new member from St. John the Evangelist) and Jeff Rice (officially now a new member from St. Mark's)

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

Update on planning for the 2027 Lenten retreat: Karen R.

- The intent is to have local speaker(s) which would include possible speakers from our neighboring dioceses. Names suggested already: Fr. Isaac Slater, OCSO (a monk at the Abbey of the Genesee), Lisa Lickona who spoke at this year's retreat. Karen has also reached out to our local religious communities and others for suggestions.
- Rose Marie suggested Fr. John Colacino, CPPS.
- Carolyn: If none of these potential speakers work out, maybe we should offer a different format like Alpha or the 99 where participants interact in small groups.
- This year's retreat committee was very effective. Once the 2027 retreat is set, Karen will reach out to its members to see if they would like to serve in 2027.

Continued Work on Pilgrims of Hope initiative

- Agreement to focus this during the Easter season and work with what the parishes already offer for Adoration.
- The current schedules: Holy Cross—Wednesdays 1-6 pm, Our Mother of Sorrows—first Saturday of the month 1-3:30 pm, St. Charles Borromeo--third Saturday of the month 5:15-6:15 pm, St. John the Evangelist—First Fridays 8:45-10 am, St. Lawrence—first Monday of the month 9 am – 3:30 pm, St. Leo the Great—Wednesdays 9 am – 8 pm, St. Mark's—Thursdays before the First Friday of the month noon-4 pm, noon to 7 every other month.

- We could offer two different passports: 1) for those who can complete the seven visits during the Easter season, 2) a general one.
- We will start this during the Easter season and see how it might develop for the future.
- We will have to pay attention to the times when the churches would be open for Adoration to accommodate all our parishioners, including those who are not available during the day.
- We want to include children and teens. We will advertise this opportunity through our schools, faith formation programs, and youth ministries.
- Joan mentioned this idea to Kris Burgio who has a book for children that explains Adoration.
- Action: Carolyn and Jeff will draft a schedule including each church, dates, and times.
- Action: Karen R. will take this to the pastoral leaders. We want to get their commitment before going to each parish with specific dates.

Additional Membership on this Evangelization Committee

- We are still seeking additional members from St. Charles, St. Lawrence, and St. Leo

Discussion regarding the Dynamic Catholics Christmas book program

- John Lacey brought this topic to the evangelization committee. Dynamic Catholic offers programs for Advent and Lent including a video a day and the Christmas book program. Books are available to parishes to distribute to their parishioners and guests for \$2.00 each.
- This year's four primary books are "33 Days of Miracles, Wonders, and Grace", "The Content Diet", "The Devil's Plan for your Life", and "The Practice of the Presence of God" but parishes can select any of their other past titles.
- It was noted that Pope Leo has recently recommended "The Practice of the Presence of God."
- At St. John's an anonymous donor pays for books to be purchased and distributed. This year "The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence has been chosen.
- St. Leo does this too. One or two years ago they also sent a book to new residents in their welcome packet.
- St. Mark's distributes books at Christmas and Easter. One year the book was accompanied by a reading guide.
- Holy Cross and Our Mother of Sorrows distribute many books, especially those by Matthew Kelly.
- St. Charles participates in the Dynamic Catholic book project. Joanie Bigham orders the books for Christmas time, and they're made available to people on tables in the back of church.
- St. Lawrence has never participated in the annual or semi-annual book give away through Dynamic Catholic. [After the meeting, Karen B. spoke with Fr. Chase who asked her to talk to Deacon David Squilla about the possibility of doing this.]
- Local possibilities:
 - Encourage all of our parishes to participate in this Christmas book program and perhaps all choose "The Practice of the Presence of God."
 - Parishes could offer a book discussion on their chosen book. Santa noted that her previous parish in Philadelphia held regular evenings where parishioners brought a dish to pass and then discussed a particular book.
 - Action: Each committee member will share this conversation with their pastoral leader, give them the names of this year's four books, and recommend that all choose the same book.

- Carolyn: If there are not discussion questions included in the back of the chosen book, we could create a study guide.

Plans for the Future

- We plan to do Advent and Lent fliers again. Marianne created the deadlines for the process which worked well last year.

Future meetings:

- Thursday, September 10, 5:30 pm, in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence
- With some committee members absent and uncertainty about others' calendars, we will choose an October date via email.

Closing prayer: Hail Mary