

## **Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Initiative**

**September 14, 2023**

### **Notes**

Present: **Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows:** John Owens, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard, **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne Katz, Dominick Zarcone, **St. Leo the Great:** Joan Rohr, **Facilitator/link to the Pastoral Planning Task Force:** Karen Rinefierd

Excused: **St. Lawrence:** Patricia Urbinelli, **St. Mark:** Carolyn DelVecchio,

**Opening prayer:** Matthew 18:21-35, faithsharing, intercessions, the Lord's Prayer

Purpose of this group: to share parish evangelization best practices, to design and implement shared evangelization projects

Target audiences (chosen after the previous meeting):

1. Members of our parishes (in general)—helping them deepen their relationship with God.
2. Members of our parishes (in general)—helping them talk to others about their faith without judging or criticizing.
3. Members of our parishes who pulled back during Covid.

### **Discussion of feedback received from the Pastoral Planning Task Force**

- Fr. Justin Miller, at a recent funeral, said that people should continue their prayer at Masses over the coming weekend. This is a good way for priests/deacons presiding at a funeral to encourage people to come to Mass.
- In response to the comment about having the same homily in all 7 parishes the same weekend
  - The whole Mass is about Christ. I understand how hard it is to get the homilists all together to do this. It's important that they take whatever steps they can in preaching to lead people to Christ. The only place we can do this is at Mass—that's where people are. We need to reach them where they are.
  - What benefit is there in having the same homily at all seven churches?
  - It could be that all of the homilists preach from the same theme on a particular weekend.
  - If we are to be about reinvigorating people's faith, that has to happen at Mass.
  - Whatever we do, what the pastoral leaders say to encourage people is important.
  - A theme could be evangelization/stewardship tailored to the Sunday scripture readings and done once a month.
  - There could be a listing of the scripture readings with a reflection in all the bulletins.
- The one suggestion we received was to emphasize deepening the faith of those 50's and younger.

### **Choosing actions for 2023-2024**

- It will be up to our members (plus any others we recruit) to implement anything chosen. That is the same for the other 7-parish collaborative initiatives on developing a shared website and vocations.
- Reminder from Karen that whatever we choose needs to be able to be implemented at all 7 parishes.

- Each member was given 6 dots to “spend” to choose from the list of possible actions brainstormed at the last evangelization meeting. Here are the results (supplemented by the choices from Patricia and Carolyn after the meeting):

Communicating opportunities for Adoration and Bible Study	6
“Welcome Month” with invitation to participate in activities at other parishes	4
Answer “where did you find God today?” with responses shared	7
Nametag Sunday	3
Ministry Minute to describe a particular ministry	1
Homily on same topic in all 7 parishes	0
Publish list of good electronic resources for Catholics	9
Bookmark with custom message	2
Advent/Lent event for all 7 parishes	8
“How is the church helping you deepen your faith” and “What could we do more of?”	2
Provide spiritual reading material	0

**Closing prayer:** Hail Mary

**Next meeting:** Thursday, October 5, 6:30 pm, at St. Charles Borromeo, room 7