

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Team

August 8, 2024

Notes

Present: **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard, **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne Katz, Dominick Zarcone, **St. Lawrence:** Karen Bunker, **St. Leo the Great:** Cindy Craner (for Joan Rohr), **St. Mark:** Carolyn DelVecchio, **Facilitator/link to the Pastoral Planning Task Force:** Karen Rinefierd

Excused: **Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows:** John Owens, **St. Lawrence:** Patricia Urbinelli, **St. Leo the Great:** Joan Rohr

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: 1 Kings 19:4-8; intercessory prayers, the Lord's Prayer

Continuing development of a plan for the coming year

Review of "top two" prioritizations of committee members for helping our parishioners talk to others about their faith without judging or criticizing

- Answer "where did you find God today" with responses shared
 - We could encourage parishes to start every committee meeting with this question to help parishioners recognize the presence of God in their lives.
 - The question is appropriate for everyone from little children through adults.
 - Parishes could choose to put the question in bulletins, on signs on church doors, or on a big poster. Responses could be shared through those methods, too.
- Develop a list of resources for grandparents to share with their grandchildren
 - Joan had previously mentioned that there are some suggested resources on the DOR website.
 - We know many people who are grandparents trying to share their faith with their grandchildren.

Review of "top two" prioritizations of committee members for reaching out to those who pulled back during Covid and those no longer participating

- An outreach during Christmas and/or Easter would be valuable. Many of us receive postcards from other churches encouraging us to worship with them at these times. **Action:** Marianne will reach out to Carl at Hope Lutheran to learn how they go about this and what response they receive. Dominick suggested that when Marianne speaks to Carl, she also inquire what preparations were made by his Church in anticipation for those who would accept the invitation to visit on Christmas or Easter.
- There was a discussion of the diocesan-wide census which is underway. We decided to defer crafting specific actions for our seven parishes until the census is completed and data made available.

Each person took one of the initiatives (including ones previously identified for helping our parishioners enrich their faith), laid out the steps to do it on post-it notes, and placed these by month on calendar sheets on the wall:

August

Share information about each parish's Bible Studies

- 1) Contact each parish for topic/dates
 - 2) Information regarding workbooks or materials needed to attend
 - 3) Provide registration sheets on website and email to return paperwork by a specific date
- Comment: parishes can share resources rather than purchase new ones

September

Develop and publish a list of retreat opportunities beyond the 7 parishes

- 1) Inquire of each parish whether they have retreat contact person(s)
- 2) Contact each to learn what retreats are planned—where/when/cost

Share information about each parish's Bible Studies—information already gathered

- St. Charles Borromeo: weekly on Thursdays 1-2 pm and 7-8 pm from September 12 through the end of November. Reflect on the scripture from the previous Sunday using Formed and “Opening the Word.”
- St. Lawrence: 9 sessions beginning 9/22, Monday 6:30-7:30 pm or Tuesday 9:15-10:15 am; the Case for Jesus, Dr. Brant Pitre (Augustine Institute)
- St. John the Evangelist: Monday morning at 9:15 am, Bible study and faith sharing group, all year long. Have used Ascension Press, Word on Fire, St. Paul Center; book/workbook/DVD. September refresher or upcoming.

Answer “where did you find God today” with responses shared

- Ask chairpersons to implement this idea and explain why we want to do this. Tell them our goal is to encourage people to reflect on how God works in their life and share that.

October

Advent flyer (Advent begins 12/1/24)

- Gather/request info – 10/1
- Info to formator – 10/16

Develop and publish a list of retreat opportunities beyond the 7 parishes

- 3) Information night for sharing retreat experiences including what is a retreat, why go to one, where available

November

Advent flyer (Advent begins 12/1/24)

- To parishes for preparation – 11/4
- Publish – 11/23

Answer “where did you find God today” with responses shared

- Survey a handful of chairpersons to see if they have started this. If not, why not? If yes, how is it going?

Electronic resources for Catholics

- What can we learn from web statistics?

December

Electronic resources for Catholics

- What comes off? What needs/should be added? Who/how approves?

January

Lent flyer 2025 (Ash Wednesday is 3/5/25)

- Gather request – 1/6
- To formator – 1/22

Electronic resources for Catholics

- Where/who can suggest new content?

Share information about each parish's Bible Studies

- Start ups for Lent [this information would also be in the Lent flyer]

February

Lent flyer 2025 (Ash Wednesday is 3/5/25)

- To parishes for preparation – 2/10

Electronic resources for Catholics

- Consider needs of different audiences (based on informal feedback and web stats)
- Add content accordingly

March

Lent flyer 2025 (Ash Wednesday is 3/5/25)

- Publish – 3/2

Electronic resources for Catholics

- Update Master with changes and additions

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

- Target date: may be used for vacation bible school and Grandparents Day
- 1) Identify resources (diocese, Dynamic Catholic, Formed)

April

Electronic resources for Catholics

- Get final approval and publish

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

- 2) Compile resources in a printed format (Word Excel spreadsheet)
- 3) Send for parish approval.

May

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

- 4) Publish resources for distribution (bulletin inserts, upload to website)

Complete work on a spreadsheet of good electronic resources for Catholics

- Copies of the final list of resources were distributed.
- The spreadsheet had gone to pastoral leaders for their review. They were asked about any concerns/questions they had about any items.
- We also received some comments. One additional resource was recommended (Catechism in a Year), and we will include it in the next update.
- There was also a question about why YouTube was listed separately rather than have people access all materials through the site that produced them. We passed that on to one of the parish

webmasters who said that some people go to YouTube because they are visual learners. We will keep the YouTube listing.

- We received a suggestion to create a handout or pamphlet with all the resources. Marianne offered to create such a brochure in September, but Dominick suggested that we could just make available the list as distributed to committee members tonight.
- Perhaps the list of resources could be distributed at youth groups.
- There could be a “how to use” brochure.
- There could be a teaser sheet of what is included in the list on the Roc Catholics Northwest website.
- We will discuss this further at the next meeting and make decisions.
- Action: Karen R. will share the spreadsheet with Brendan Parker, who developed our website, so that he can format it for the website. There was a suggestion to see if Brendan could give the spreadsheet a unique web address so that it is easy to link to it.
- The plan is to announce the electronic resources list in bulletins the weekend of 9/8 and hopefully also have it included in parishes’ social media early this fall. Karen R. needs to send the bulletin announcement to bulletin editors by next Thursday, August 15. Action: Carolyn will draft an announcement and send it to Karen ASAP.
- Carolyn noted that once the electronic resources list has been available for a while, we need to pause and look at the impact of our work. We need to assess what is being used—perhaps through some sort of survey. Dominic suggested the possibility of giving parishioners an opportunity to share a personal testimony on the possible impact of any of the electronic resources in deepening faith.

Marianne suggested that it would be good if all of our undertakings have an assessment step to review the impact of our work and make appropriate changes where beneficial. Everyone agreed. We will consider adding to the ‘survey’ the question “how the Electronic Sources or any in particular helped me in my relationship with God.”

Closing prayer: Hail Mary

Upcoming meetings:

- **Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 pm, (tentatively in room #3 in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence)**
- **Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 pm, (tentatively in room #3 in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence)**