

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Parishes Evangelization Initiative

May 4, 2023

Notes

Present: **St. Charles Borromeo:** Rose Marie Lombard, **St. John the Evangelist:** Marianne Katz, Dominick Zarcone, **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: **Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows:** John Owens

Opening Prayer: Story--the Messiah is One of Us; sharing where we have recently seen the good news of God's love, compassion and mercy; the Lord's Prayer.

Introductions/interest and experience with evangelization

- Karen: facilitating the work of the pastoral planning task force, will also facilitate this group and be communication link with the pastoral leaders and the task force.
- Marianne: retired (Kodak, worked at various parishes and served as a hospital chaplain), has a Master's in pastoral studies.
- Rose Marie: went to St. Bernard's, presented parish missions nationally through Isaiah Missions, presented "Heart to Heart" evangelization workshops in parishes through Isaiah Ministries, retired from working at the Outreach Center at Holy Apostles, now involved in funeral ministry (at funeral homes, White Haven), husband Dick is a deacon.
- Patricia: grew up in an "Easter" family (went to church on Easter), was active while in college at St. Bonaventure, left the church for 13 years, member of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown for a while, has served as a catechist and youth minister; her passion is Scripture and the sacraments.
- Dominick: Now being retired 7 years from his role as an RTS bus driver, where he valued being able to greet people, Dominick experienced an adult conversion to Christ in 1978 which gave meaning and purpose to his life. Discipled by Renewal Ministries' Ralph Martin, Pope St. Paul VI's "Evangelization in the Modern World", Pope St. John Paul II's "Mission of the Redeemer", and the Second Vatican Council's documents, Dominick lives to deepen his faith in Jesus Christ and to invite everyone he meets to an intimate relationship with the crucified and risen Lord.
- Joan: Executive Director of Birthright, involved in the Cursillo movement, and serves on St. Leo's evangelization committee.
- Carolyn: Has experience designing training programs to meet a variety of needs. Became heavily involved in the church after her husband died. Worked in a non-profit geared to helping other non-profits make a bigger impact but they lost their grants with Covid. Also has experience with marketing; realized she could continue her non-profit work doing the same thing here.
- Kathy: involved in bible studies and outreach to the homebound.
- Karen shared that John is ill tonight and could not be present. He is a long-time member of the Stewardship and Evangelization Committee at Holy Cross.

Discussion of Pope Francis' 1/18/23 reflection "What should we do for people who leave the church? Jesus shows us the way" – Read as homework. Each asked to share one point that stood out for them.

- The passion of evangelization; apostolic zeal. Jesus was always in relationship, outgoing, bringing God to people and people to the Father.
- Have to start with where we are. Jesus was an outgoing person who related to others one on one and in groups.
- To evangelize is not to proselytize. We seek to draw near to others with an open heart because God is like that. Evangelization is about loving so that others might be happy children of God. “Let us ask the grace of a pastoral heart, an open heart that draws near to everyone, so as to bear the Lord’s message as well as to feel Christ’s longing for them.” At the end of the Mass are the words, “Go forth and share the gospel (the good news).”
- Ditto. It’s about loving.
- The heart of passion can’t be lukewarm—it needs to be a pastoral heart and an open heart. We need to take risks. Heart to heart sharing is important.
- Jesus is the Logos, the Word. That Word exists to be transmitted and communicated. All our words as Christians transmit something, too. “If we Christians do not have this love that suffers and takes risks, we risk pasturing only ourselves. Shepherds who are shepherds of themselves, instead of being shepherds of the flock, are people who comb ‘exquisite’ sheep. We do not need to be shepherds of ourselves, but shepherds for everyone.”

Discussion based on ideas generated by the pastoral planning task force

- Liked the idea of having collaboration on the same homily to be delivered in each church.
- “Christ led, Christ fed, hope-filled”—a tagline used in Ogdensburg--the bishop’s homilies end with that, it’s on bulletins, etc.
- It’s important for the core to be strong—we should start with parishioners.
- “Feed the sheep, feed the shepherds, reach out to the community”—St. Leo’s 5-year plan. Their goal was to increase Mass attendance 5% and they’ve accomplished that.
- Re-remembering Church was an initiative in the diocese during the 90’s.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 25, 6:30 pm, room 7 in the St. Charles school building

Agenda items:

- Deciding target audience(s)
- Determining first steps