

Evangelization Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: St Mary of the Hills

Date: May 8, 2014

Present: Deb Valot, Clem Valot, Jay Fedewa, John Hundiak, George Phillips, Karen Schenk, Jennifer Stembridge, Susie Phillips

1. Opening Group Prayer

2. New Members and Guests:

- a. Welcome to new member Karen Schenk! Karen has some suggestions about future speakers and activities, and provided information and sample copies of apologetic booklets by Gus Lloyd. We are glad to have you on board, Karen!
- b. Jennifer Stembridge attended to talk about “using technology to evangelize.”
 - i. There is a program called “Vertical Response” which offers up to 10,000 free emails per month. The current parish email list is about 1100, and a typical month sees a couple of emails per month sent to the list. There should be some free emails left each month that could be used for evangelization.
 - ii. We discussed creating one or more email lists and sending periodic emails with topics of interest to these groups. One suggestion was to have an email list for the youth.
 - iii. Monthly was suggested as a reasonable frequency for email updates – frequent enough to convey timely information about events without being annoying to the recipients.
 - iv. Jennifer is willing to compile these proposed email newsletters if we feed the information to her. She would need to be linked up with information that is going into the bulletin (work with Judy).
 - v. The suggestion was to include links to additional information in the emails, rather than making them long and difficult to read.

3. Old Business:

- a. **Alternates for Commissions.** Karen Schenk is already on the Christian Service Commission. Clem Valot said that he would be alternate to the Education Commission.
- b. **The “Unstaffed” list.** We are keeping a list of activities which do not have volunteer support. Anyone is invited to add a project to the list.
- c. **The “Welcome” brochures are in.** Deb will put them out in the lobby.

4. New Business: (20 min)

- a. **St Paul Street Evangelization,** (Mark, Clem) More discussion planned for the June meeting. How can we learn from them? How can we support them? They would be an interesting speaker for next year..
- b. **ChristLife for 2014-15** – Susie will present an update to the parish council in May. In the fall, the Evangelization Committee plans to purchase copies of the book “Discover Christ” for the incoming parish council members.

5. **PAV Report:** Susie gave a report from the recent PAV meetings. There is a recommended AOD seminar with Father Michael White (author of *Rebuilt* and *Tools for Rebuilding*) and Christopher Wesley (also from Church of the Nativity, Maryland) at St. Paul Albanian church June 12.

6. Round Table & Ideas:

- a. Jay Fedewa: Bring in an apologetic speaker next year, like Richard Lane, a convert to Catholicism. He is the son of Night train Lane, former Detroit Lion. He is dynamic and highly recommended.
- b. Deb Valot: Send *Rediscover Catholicism* books as a follow-up to families who contact the parish asking about sacrament registration.
- c. Clem Valot: Will work with Mark Joyce to get info on St. Paul Street Evangelization.
- d. John Hundiak: Vacation Bible School is an opportunity to reach out to families, some even from outside the parish. Recommended [orientaltrader.com/ VBS](http://orientaltrader.com/VBS) section for ideas.
- e. Karen Schenk: Sad and astonishing statistics about abortion. Check out The Radiance Foundation's toomanyaborted.com.
- f. Jennifer Stembridge: Contact Peggy Casing – would she consider help with planning and choosing topics for future “Coffee and Conversation” meetings?

7. Next meeting: June 5 – East Overflow. Last meeting of the year. Please send your agenda ideas.

8. Closing Prayer

Submitted by Susie Phillips 5/27/2014