

Evangelization Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: St Mary of the Hills

Date: September 17, 2014

Present: Deb Valot, ClemValot, Jay Fedewa, Mark Joyce, George Phillips, Karen Schenk, Susie Phillips, Ellen Nawrocki

1. **Opening Group Prayer:** George Phillips

2. **New Members and Guests:**

- a. Welcome to new member Ellen Nawrocki! Ellen has a great deal of experience in faith sharing programs and in bringing people to the faith. Ellen ran the “Catholics Come Home Program” at a former parish, and has been to Medjugorje seven times. She has been moved to distribute an original “peace angel” prayer card to those she meets, and has helped to make prayer banners for our troops. Currently, she is her grandson’s confirmation sponsor. We are blessed to have you join Ellen!

3. **Old Business:**

a. **There was brief discussion about current projects:**

- i. **Reference book gift to SMYG members:** Chris Kozlowski distributed copies of “Did Adam and Eve have Belly Buttons?” to SMYG members at the kickoff meeting, purchased for them by the Evangelization Committee.
- ii. **Vocations Committee:** George is interested in heading this. Current ideas include contacting Tom Merlo to let him know our support, and perhaps ask him to speak to a group at the parish in the future.
- iii. **Annual Contacting of Inactive Parishioners:** Jay was asked to continue this activity this year.
- iv. **Consecration of the Family:** Tom Kubacki submitted an article to the vicariate newsletter, inviting anyone from the vicariate to join the program, which is planned again for this fall.
- v. **Men’s Fellowship Catholicism Series:** Jay is hosting a bi-monthly viewing of the installments in the “Catholicism” series by Father Robert Barron at his home on Saturday mornings
- vi. **Religious Freedom Facebook page and bulletin articles:** Continuing. (Mark, Jay, Karen Dudek).
- vii. **Emagine Theater Movie Night:** This was a successful activity in October 2013, and is represented in the Evangelization Committee budget for this year, but no current plans have been made. TBD.

4. **New Business:** (20 min)

- a. **Right to Life/ Lifespan:** There was discussion about how the Evangelization Committee could support these groups. Karen Schenk said that she would like to start a “Respecting Life Committee.” The members supported this idea. This will be a topic for future meetings.
- b. **ChristLife for 2014-15** – Many of the committee members, and about 12 people from St. Mary’s in total, attended the AOD-sponsored training on September 12 and 13. ChristLife is a 3-part program which includes “Discovering Christ,” “Following Christ,” and “Sharing Christ.” Each part runs for 7 weeks. St. Mary’s is planning on running “Discover Christ” and then “Following Christ” from January to May, 2015. This will be the main use of the Evangelization Committee’s resources of time and budget this year.

Clem and George to present to Parish Council: There is a great deal of enthusiasm for running the program at St. Mary’s as planned. There was also recognition that there is a great deal of planning and advertising to be done in the near future, and that gathering a solid team of volunteers is crucial. Clem and George will present the timeline and a summary of the ChristLife program to the parish council in September 20. **Their presentations are attached to these minutes.**

- i. Clem commented that Christlife planning should comprehend that we aren’t doing this just once – this is the first of what could be an annual St. Mary’s program. Chemistry and fellowship of the team itself is critical. Clem is loading the activities into a spreadsheet for tracking.
- ii. Christlife requires total buy-in by the commissions. George will reinforce this at the parish council meeting Saturday.
- iii. Deb has ordered the training materials and DVD’s. They will be delivered by next week.
- iv. Susan Kowalski from St. Irenaeus’s Evangelization Committee also attended the Discover Christ training, and is interested in partnering with St. Mary’s in running the program. A daytime course at St. Irenaeus is also being discussed.
- v. One of the key team positions is music. Unfortunately, the Thursday night Discover Christ meetings conflict with Thursday night choir practice. We need to discuss with Dan Greig. Can someone step out of choir practice to lead the worship portion of Discover Christ, or is there another musically talented person available? Barb Sheldrik was mentioned as an accomplished flute player.
- vi. Immediate planning needs are:
 - 1. Find volunteers to fill the key team roles
 - 2. Plan for advertising: (1) to potential team members, and (2) to potential program participants, or parishioners who invite participants
(UPDATE: “Information Night” is scheduled for October 29, and “Team Training Day” is November 22.)

5. **PAV Report:** Susie will be the second SMOTH PAV rep, with Joan Cashman this year.

6. Round Table & Ideas (Carried over from June 2014) are potential projects for 2014-2015:

- 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. Upcoming meetings are shown below the minutes.

- a. Included on the list are the **PAV Evangelization** Workshops hosted by the AOD and the PAV Evangelization Committee. They will be held at St. Andrew in November. **Highly recommended for all St. Mary’s leadership and parishioner! The flier is on the PAV website.**

8. Closing Prayer: George Phillips

Submitted by Susie Phillips 10/3//2014

Date	Day	Time	Mtg Title	Location
10/1/2014	Wed	7 - 9 pm	Discover Christ Workgroup	Conference Room
10/15/2014	Wed	7 - 9 pm	Evangelization Committee/ DC Workgroup	Conference Room
10/29/2014	Wed	7 - 9 pm	Discover Christ Information Night	Andrew
11/5/2014	Wed	6 - 9 pm	PAV Evangelization Workshop, Fr. Alex Kratz	St. Andrews, Activities Building (See PAV website for flier)
11/11/2014	Tue	7 - 9 pm	Evangelization Committee/ DC Workgroup	East Overflow
11/12/2014	Wed	6 - 9 pm	PAV Evangelization Workshop, Fr. Alex Kratz	St. Andrews, Activities Building (See PAV website for flier)

11/19/2014	Wed	6 - 9 pm	PAV Evangelization Workshop, Fr. Alex Kratz	St. Andrews, Activities Building (See PAV website for flier)
11/22/2014	Sat	9 - 3:30 pm	ChristLife Team Training Day	Gym