

Evangelization Committee Agenda

Location: St Mary of the Hills

Date: June 17, 2015 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

1. **Opening Prayer (Father Stan)**
2. **Potluck dinner: The meeting was well attended by members of the Evangelization Committee, as well as our special guests, the Discovering Christ and Following Christ participants.**
3. **Pontiac Area Vicariate update (Susie Phillips)**
 - a. **The PAV has a new bookkeeper – Mark Baker. The AOD has completed its audit.**
 - b. **CCRT and Agape will be moved to SMOTH as their functioning parish and SMOTH will bill the vicariate for expenses. Similarly, the Athletic League will be housed at Sacred Heart, and Sacred Heart will bill the vicariate for reimbursement of their expenses.**
 - c. **Parish updates:**
 - i. **St. Andrews has established an Evangelization Committee.**
 - ii. **St. Irenaeus will run Sharing Christ on Wednesday mornings starting July 1 and SMOTH members are invited.**
 - iii. **Sacred Heart is continuing to refine their religious ed program. It is currently 90 minutes per week and parents stay at the church. They have tried using movies and videos for the parents, which has been popular.**
 - iv. **St. Joe’s has been running Alpha at a bar, and some people from the bar have jumped in and joined.**
 - v. **Agape is still drawing regionally. The recent Saturday evening mass with Fr. Marco was popular. Masses will be held the second Saturday of the month from August to June (no mass in July). Theology on tap is also going well.**
 - vi. **Nick Jorgenson said the AOD is finalizing plans for Evangelization certification.**
 - vii. **Other parishes have held successful fundraisers recently, and are planning activities over the summer, including picnics and SOS.**
 - viii. **The four vicariates of the NW region are meeting to discuss a joint vocations night. Details have yet to be developed. Erik Coule is coordinating the first meeting.**
4. **Evangelization Committee Accomplishments in 2014-15 (Susie Phillips)**
 - a. **See attached. It was another great year. Thanks to all.**
5. **ChristLife “lessons learned” was discussed by the group. (George Phillips and All)**
 - a. **Following Christ graduates are invited to the parish council meeting Saturday June 20.**
 - b. **The target group for ChristLife is not who attended this year. People who were at the tables were already committed to Christ. This year’s attendees, and the whole parish, can be ambassadors for the program next year, now that we have the experience of running the program once.**
 - c. **There was more engagement in the Following Christ module – people talking more.**
 - d. **The retreats were very good – perhaps the best part of the program**
 - e. **The Discovering Christ DVDs seemed to follow the pattern of raising a question before giving the answer. This was good – and Following Christ lessons did not follow this pattern. The suggestion is that we use the Discovering Christ pattern of giving some questions out before the DVD when we run Following Christ next year.**
 - f. **Make it clear after the retreats that there is a 5:00 Saturday mass at St. Mary’s for those who want to attend.**

- g. Announce the fact that the program includes a retreat on the 5th Saturday early and often. This was a point of confusion.**
 - h. Partnering with St. Irenaeus for the training and the retreats was a winner.**
 - i. Using the HFRS facility worked well also.**
 - j. The food committee did a great job of providing meals for Discovering Christ at about \$20/person for the whole program, after donations. They served approximately 900 meals total for the program. For Following Christ, participants took turns bringing dessert. Both programs were run very economically.**
- 6. Updates on other projects with the Parish: (Susie Phillips)**
- a. Chris K is working on the electronic sign proposal.**
 - b. Matthew Kelly is coming to St. Andrew's in October, and SMOTH will support them with ticket sales.**
 - c. Karen Schenk is in discussion with Chris K about a youth speaker for next fall. The committee will continue to discuss how to support SMYG and high school .**
- 7. SWOT (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-and-Threats) (George Phillips)**
- a. George went over how to use the tool, as training for the upcoming parish council discussion Saturday.**

Sharing Christ Schedule for 2015:

Weekly Sessions: Thursday October 1 – November 5, St. Mary's gym

Retreat: Saturday November 7, Location TBD

Discovering Christ Schedule for 2016: (Tentative)

Weekly Sessions: Thursday January 21 – Thursday March 10, requested at HFRS

Retreat: Saturday February 27, requested at HFRS

SMOTH Evangelization Committee Accomplishments 2014-15 Fiscal Year

PROJECT TITLE	START DATE	LEADERS	SUMMARY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Plan ChristLife program. Advertise to parishioners and visitors	7/1/2014	ClemValot, Jay Fedewa, Mark Joyce, Karen Schenk, Deb Valot, Meghan Schuler, Carol Gunther, Marlene DeBrosse, Beth Belesky, Paula Petkau, George Phillips, Susie Phillips	A steady stream of meetings and off-line work was required to plan and prepare for the ChristLife sessions. This included "Information Night" for potential volunteers, "Volunteer Training Day," creating and updating timelines, collaboration, finding volunteers to fill each required role, advertising, registration, task tracking, ordering booklets, planning retreats, menu planning, shopping, weekly previews of the DVD lessons, Small Group facilitator (SGF) training and weekly information sessions for the SGF's.
Commission support	7/1/2014	All	Attend meetings, support discussion and projects, provide synergy between the Evangelization Committee and commissions: Christian Service: Mark Joyce, Karen Schenk Education: Clem Valot, Susie Phillips Fellowship: Jay Fedewa Stewardship: George Phillips Worship: Karen Dudek, Beth Belesky
Backpack and School Supply Initiative	7/1/2014	Susie Phillips, Deb Valot	Purchased backpacks and school supplies for Neighborhood House in response to their plea for these items for school children.
Assistance with Stewardship Fair	7/1/2014	George Phillips and All	Planning, spoke at all masses, attended fair, helped commission members write the individual response letters
Slogan Contest	7/1/2014	Deb Valot and Susie Phillips	Proposed slogan contest, wrote bulletin article, collected and tabulated entries.
Advertising for Parish Picnic/ Visitor's table with book distribution	7/1/2014	Susie Phillips	Purchased a sign to put out by John R advertising the picnic as "All are Welcome.... Bring the whole family." Result was 100 more people than last year and many new faces, and 20 copies of Rediscover Catholicism given to visitors.
ChristLife program planning and volunteer training	9/1/2014	Deb Valot	About 25 people from St. Mary's volunteer and staff base attended two-day training program at St. Paul Albanian church, along with representatives from many other Detroit-area parishes to learn how to run the ChristLife program.

St. Paul Street Evangelization	9/1/2014	Mark Joyce	Investigating training activity or speaker to tap into the knowledge of this group
ChristLife Training	9/1/2014	All	~ 25 SMOTH parishioners attended. This became the volunteer base for the Discovering Christ and Following Christ sessions.
Word on Fire materials into Evangelization Library	10/1/2014	George Phillips	Purchased "Catholicism" DVDs. Have been popular. Purchased in two-hour sets to facilitate use by multiple families.
Consecration of the Family	10/1/2014	Tom Kubacki, Barb Sheldrick, Dan Greene	Several families completed the program.
Participation in PAV EvC	10/1/2014	Susie Phillips	Committee was formed in 2013. The committee's role is to share information, resources, and best practices between parishes.
Free book distribution to the Christmas mass attendees. Purchased extra books.	11/1/2014	All	Thank you, Father Stan, for asking for the Committee's opinion.. The book that was selected was "Finding True Happiness" by Fulton Sheen. It was so popular that the committee purchased 100 additional copies because of requests by parishioners.
Gus Lloyd Minute in the Church books	12/1/2014	Karen Schenk	Purchased two groups of Gus Lloyd's "Minute in the Church" books for \$1 each. Put in Narthex and asked for donations to cover the cost. Second group was purchased by Women's Bible study members for themselves, for friends and family.
ChristLife program: Discovering Christ and Following Christ sessions	1/1/2015	Evangelization Committee and Many Other SMOTH Volunteers	Held the "Discovering Christ" program, consisting of seven weekly sessions plus a day-long retreat . About 120 people attended the program. (January - March 2015). Held the "Following Christ" program consisting of seven additional weekly sessions plus a retreat. About 60 people attended the program. (April - May 2015). Almost 900 meals were served at the Training Day, weekly sessions, and retreats, at an average cost of \$4/meal before donations. For Following Christ, attendees brought donations of desserts. After donations, the combined programs cost about \$20 per attendee for food. The program was run collaboratively with St. Irenaeus: Training Day and the Discovering Christ retreat were held jointly, and parishioners from both parishes were offered the option of Thursday evening sessions at St. Mary's or Wednesday morning sessions at St. Irenaeus. Very positive and moving feedback was received from the participants.

Electronic Sign Proposal	2/1/2015	Susie Phillips	Contacted one sign company to get preliminary cost. Contacted churches in the area who have electronic signs to get their experience and names of sign companies that they used. Gave an update to the parish council. This would be a great evangelization tool since SMOTH is on a busy road. There would be immediate savings by eliminating the need to purchase white canvas signs for special events.
Gymnasium Usage Study	3/1/2015	George and Susie Phillips	Used the SMOTH calendar to breakdown the usage of the gym hour by hour and day by day by the type of activities that are scheduled. It was found that it was only used as a "gym" (i.e. tile floor and/or basketball hoops are needed) 2% of the time. Other activities could be better served by an area with better acoustics and welcoming appointments, and partitions could be considered to provide meeting spaces. Status: Building Committee cannot add this proposed renovation to the short-term plan, but purchasing room dividers may be a short-term option.
Led Prayer and Worship for April 2015 Parish Council meeting	4/1/2015	All	Started with strawman from George & developed a beautiful prayer service with two songs, candles, and several scripture readings with the them of springtime, NEW LIFE GIVEN TO ALL BELIEVERS, and JESUS's DIRECTION TO HIS APOSTLES TO BRING THIS NEW LIFE to the rest of the world."
Planning Vocations Event	4/1/2015	Susie and George Phillips	Tentative date of November 1, at St. Andrew after the Sunday evening 5:00 mass. Need to get a project plan to St. Andrew's in July.
Surveyed New parishioners and new RCIA graduates	4/1/2015	Susie and George Phillips	At new members dinner, and at RCIA meeting after Easter, talked to new members to get their opinions and perspective.
Advise on Parish Benefit of purchasing active On-line presence management	4/1/2015	All	Invited Chris Drouird to committee meeting; evaluated service; gave feedback to Business manger, Chris K. Seems to be a worthwhile thing to have SMOTH events and information actively "pushed" to follower lists. Status: 6 month contract to try out this service.
Planning: Youth and Young Adult speaker series	5/1/2015	Karen Schenk, George Phillips, Susie Phillips	Evaluated the possibility of bring popular youth speaker Justin Fatica to St. Mary's. Will continue brainstorming and discerning speaker to inspire and educate youth and young adults. Working jointly with SMYG and Religious Ed leaders.

Hang tags for Parking at Rochester Festival of the Hills	5/1/2015	Deb Valot, Karen Schenk, Susie Phillips	Developed a hang-tag to make the SMYG park-here-for-the-fireworks fundraiser into an evangelizing event. It will be given to each vehicle owner who pays to park in the St. Mary's parking lot. It explains that the intended use of the parking fee is to support SMYG's SAW outreach projects, says "Parking is free the other 364 days... Come worship with us" and gives mass times and parish contact information.
Books to graduates	5/1/2015	Karen Schenk, Deb Valot, and Susie Phillips	Researched various titles to give to High School and College graduates at the Graduation Brunch and after. Settled on 6 different titles from Dynamic Catholic because of good value, and nicely of offering graduates a choice. NOTE: Graduates seemed to like the two books that had numbers in the title "Nine Words" and "1001 Reasons Why It's Great to be Catholic."
Patriotic Rosary	6/1/2015	Susie and George Phillips, John Hundiak	One of our Following Christ participants asked to collaborate with SMOTH to host a patriotic rosary to pay for guidance and protection on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Had attendees from six parishes. Prayed out by John R to be visible to passing traffic.
Purchasing materials for Evangelization Library	6/1/2015	George and Susie Phillips	Adding more titles about evangelization, the new evangelization, and Word on Fire titles. Looking to add more digital media, and advertise in the bulletin for summer use. Will capture the request to get feedback from patrons.