

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

35777 Center Ridge Rd. - North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

440-327-2201 FAX: 440-327-2204

Evangelization Commission Minutes September 17, 2016

Present: Tom Banner, Chris Nagel, Vince Farrell, Connie Kramer, Christine Bak, Fr. Andrew

Absent: Jerry Tomasheski, Ken Williams, Dave Zarrelli

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Opening Prayer	Meeting was opened with a Prayer for the New Evangelization	
Gospel Reflection	The Gospel for the 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Lk 16: 1-13) was read and reflected upon.	
Discussion on Evangelization Goal #1	<p>Commission Members discussed Goal #1 from <i>Go and Make Disciples</i>, a national plan and strategy for Catholic Evangelization written by the Committee on Evangelization of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Full text here: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/evangelization/go-and-make-disciples/go-and-make-disciples-a-national-plan-and-strategy-for-catholic-evangelization-in-the-united-states.cfm</p> <p>Goal #1: "To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others."</p> <p>See Summary and Synthesis</p>	Commission Members will reflect and pray about our discussion in preparation for discerning detailed short and long term objectives regarding strategies for this goal.
Discerning Short and Long Term Objectives: Goal #1	Tabled until next month due to time constraints.	Commission members evaluate "Summary and Synthesis" of discussion concerning goal #1 to determine resources needed to implement ideas and potential effectiveness in order to make decisions about strategies.

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<p>Old Business</p>	<p><u>Catholics Returning Home</u> Tom reported that the committee met last week. Process begins in January and runs 7 weeks on Wednesdays 7 pm – 8:30 pm in the Galilee Room. The content is outlined in the book <i>Inviting Catholics Home</i> by Sally L. Mews. Chris Nagel has outlined the content of each meeting. Committee is deciding on materials to be used and working on inviting presenters. A video about the Church after Vatican II has been ordered. Advertising will begin in November via yard signs, bulletin announcements, website, social media, NE Ohio Catholic magazine, the electronic sign, and other media.</p> <p><u>Welcome Cards</u> The welcome card which is not at the doors of the church was passed around for all to admire! The question was raised: How will visitors will know that the cards are at the doors and what are they to do with them once they are filled out? Suggestions for possible solutions: Lector announce at the start of mass, place in collection basket, have them downstairs on donut Sunday, place at a hospitality/welcome table</p> <p><u>Telephone Outreach</u> Connie reported that she is rewriting the scripts because the old script contained obsolete information about activities that parishioners were being invited to participate in. She is also working with Christine Stefanek to update phone list. She has 5-6 people on the committee whom she will be contacting—would like about 10 if anyone knows anyone who would like to do this. The calls to inactive parishioners will take place from the extra parish phone in the secretary's office from 7-8 in the evening so that caller ID will reflect that the call is coming from the parish. It was suggested that other phones in the parish center be used as well, but Connie pointed out that it would require reserving rooms which are already in high demand.</p> <p>Connie also reported that Larry Zigmund responded to our bulletin announcement inviting new members for the commission.</p>	<p>Committee to continue to meet</p> <p>Refer to Jerry Tomasheski for answer to questions that were raised.</p> <p>Commission members will reflect and pray about who may be called to this ministry and let Connie know.</p> <p>Chris Bak to contact Larry</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p><u>2016 Stewardship and Evangelization Workshop</u> Location: St. Victor, 3435 Everett Rd., Richfield, OH There are two dates for the workshop: Friday November 11, 12:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. or Saturday November 12, 9 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Per Fr. Bob, the parish will pay the \$20 registration fee for any commission member who wishes to attend. Chris Bak will be attending on Saturday and is willing to carpool. More information here: http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/evangelization/2016-stewardship-and-evangelization-workshop/</p>	<p>Commission members let Chris Bak know if you would like to attend by September 30 and she will take care of registration. Include which date you wish to attend</p>

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		and if you have any food allergies.
Next Meeting	October 15, 2016 in the Conference Room at 10:00 a.m. -Decision Items: Short and Long Term Objectives -Discussion of Goal #2 will be postponed until November	Committee Reports and Agenda items due by October 7 th
Closing Prayer	Fr. Andrew led Commission members in prayer.	

Submitted by,

**Christine Bak
Evangelization Commission Chairperson**

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SUMMARY AND SYNTHESIS Goal #1

“To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.”

Strategy #1 from *Go and Make Disciples*: to foster an experience of conversion and renewal in the heart of every believer, leading to a more active living of Catholic Life.

- There are probably hundreds of people in the pews every Sunday who have never had an experience of conversion or renewal in the heart.
- Chris Bak shared that a personal invitation to become involved in parish and faith life is what ultimately led to her experience of conversion resulting from a personal encounter with Christ.
 - Connecting people with the Church connects them with Christ because the Church is the Body of Christ.
- Chris Nagel agreed that a similar experience of participation in Church life led him from a disconnected experience of Church to a conversion experience.
- Fr. Andrew related that we have to have the perspective that we have a role in other people’s encounter with the Lord.
- Chris Nagel suggested that “enthusiasm” is the key word in goal #1 to bring about the necessary engagement. Different people are energized and driven by different things. We have to determine what that is for each individual in order to encourage enthusiasm. He referred to a book used by the School Advisory Committee called *Living Your Strengths*. Information about the book here:
https://www.amazon.com/Living-Your-Strengths-God-Given-Community/dp/1595620222/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1474575554&sr=1-1&keywords=living+your+strengths+-+catholic+edition
- Connie suggested that evoking emotion also generates enthusiasm.
 - Music is something that can evoke emotion and energize. Tom agreed and said that new and lively music can spark emotion. Fr. Andrew said that music

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draws us into prayer and help us worship. It can unite people and give them a sense of belonging.

- Ideas to facilitate a revitalization of music: cantor, variety of styles, continual variation and modification
- Connie also pointed out the centrality of the Mass to our faith and proposed that connecting people to the liturgy through ministerial roles will also encourage enthusiasm.
 - Vince pointed out that education and instruction is also a key to effective engagement, especially of liturgical ministers such as servers
- Obstacles to enthusiasm
 - No immediate results, irrelevant messages in homily, busy, tired, commitments are open ended making them overwhelming.
- Ideas for overcoming obstacles to enthusiasm
 - Video/phone meetings for parents so they will not need to get a sitter, family committees in which children have a role, more opportunities for short-term commitments each week.
 - Hospitality/Welcome table (maybe would have to change location each week). The greeter initiative was tried and eventually fizzled out. Expanding our efforts at hospitality paired with persistence could bear fruit. This could also be a great tool for encouraging participation by making it a central point of coordination for volunteer opportunities with detailed information and sign-ups (maybe even using laptops and/or smart phones)
- Vince suggested finding ways to encourage full participation in the Mass through the final blessing and recessional hymn.
- Dave (via email) proposed that finding ways to connect younger people and families to our church, programs, and activities as well as encouraging leadership among them will enhance creativity in living the Gospel in the modern culture.

Strategy #2 from *Go and Make Disciples*: to foster an

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experience of conversion and renewal in every parish.

- This is important because when we reach out to invite individuals to be more connected to Church, we must be inviting them to something vibrant, alive, and growing—not something stagnant, complacent, and comfortable with the status quo.
- Communication and Collaboration are keys to a united community
- A compartmentalized “cliquey” community is an obstacle to a unified mission.
- Activities will bear the most fruit if they have many different components implemented through the gifts of many groups and individuals working together for a common purpose—each activity can be optimally spiritually nourishing, evangelizing, educational, and incorporate the principals of catholic social teaching, etc.
 - Vince suggested having occasional general parish meetings bringing together all the commissions (and other groups too) to communicate goals, mission, direction.