

Evangelization Commission Meeting Notes  
September 30, 2019

**Present:** Fr. Jim, Sharon Miller, Richard McGraw, Sandra Rogala, Val Cyburt, Diane Geverink

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m., with opening prayer led by Sharon.

**Chairperson's Comments** – The commission meets on the fourth Monday of each month and is currently comprised of eight members including Fr. Jim and Josh. The last meeting was in April. The main focus of the commission is personal contact with people, including phone calls and follow-up of note cards. The phone calls/note cards activity was on vacation during the summer months. A parish couple is still working with the engaged couples in marriage preparation. The first couple mentored from this outreach was recently married at St. Edith's. Deacon Don continues to work with the newly baptized. Keep mental track of visitors who come to Mass. Many times encounters happen with people who visit for the first time, they may return because someone talked to them; a great welcoming opportunity. Emphasis on welcoming millennial and inviting their participation on this commission. Evangelization/welcoming is also important with other parish commissions and at other parish events such as fish frys, movie night, coffee and conversation, blood drives, etc.

**Fr. Jim's Comments** – The Welcoming Committee will be invited to the next Evangelization Commission meeting. They will be encouraged to bring a friend. Continue to invite people to share their stories. Currently, there are not any stories from parish members for the bulletin and stories from a Michael Kelly book are being used. Suggested topics to write about include, "My Personal Conversion", "Why Do You Love Being Catholic?", "What is Your Favorite Catholic Memory?", "As a Catholic, What Do You Hope For in the Future?" The Archdiocese of Detroit (AOD) has proceeded with its bimonthly magazine publication in print and on-line. It has published three times with the August/September edition being the latest. There have also been some podcasts and emails. Three AOD Evangelization Commission meetings have taken place. No plans for any specific evangelization program at St. Edith's as waiting to see what the AOD may recommend first.

**Business** – Reviewed our new Parish Goals and Objectives for 2019/20. Parish membership is up. Mass attendance count will take place again in October. A sharing of "How do you evangelize?" took place amongst the commission. Simple connection through conversation will yield opportunities maybe not immediately, but perhaps at a later time. These are the moments when evangelization can occur and seeds planted. Everyone is evangelizing all the time in their own way. Having been through bad times can help someone going through a similar situation

later, which is the good thing that can come out of something bad. Phone calls and note cards will continue. Welcome packs ready for these actions were picked up by commission members. A parish survey was discussed and it was suggested that we may need help from outside source to develop. It was suggested that it may be time once again for a new program such as Alpha or Discovering Your Gifts. Some people are truly inspired by such programs. The DivorceCare program continues with two tables.

*Next meeting* – Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room.

Opening Prayer – Diane

Closing Prayer – Sandy

*Meeting* adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with closing prayer by Sharon.

Prepared by Diane Geverink