

Evangelization Commission Meeting Notes

January 27, 2020

Present: Fr. Jim McNulty, Josh Kugler, Sharon Miller, Richard McGraw,
Sandra Rogala, M. George McConnell, Matt Brandon, Diane Geverink

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with Opening Prayer led by Josh.

Chairperson's Comments - Welcomed everyone in attendance with a special welcome and introduction of new member, Matt Brandon. Recapped the Parish Council meeting which included positive comments on the new portable Welcome cart near the main entrance of the church, the Advent/Christmas season, the U-M survey, and finances. The U-M Survey is just beginning to be developed. It is anticipated the survey will be completed, distributed (during Mass), and tabulated (by U-M), during the course of the university's current semester calendar.

The focus of this commission is on welcoming, i.e., reaching out to new, current, and inactive members.

An email was sent to present and former commission members on New Parishioner Contacts List to ascertain their continued interest in contacting new parishioners.

Fr. Jim's Comments – Phone calls and notecards to inactive members can continue; however, more can be done with welcoming and sponsoring new parish registrants. This is where there is more success connecting with people because they are more engaged since they have probably visited St. Edith's at Mass several times, attended an activity, or perhaps recently received the sacraments. There needs to be more attention with this group. Contacts need to be more than one phone call and one note card. The contact should be elevated more to a "sponsor" role, inviting to a parish activity such as coffee and donuts, movie night, coffee and conversation, bible study, Fishers of Men, Gospel of Life, parish picnic, etc., and include later contacts.

Welcome Committee membership needs to be expanded to accommodate all Masses and St. Edith events where many parishioners and non-parishioners may attend. The two upcoming events are the blood drive on Sunday, February 23rd and the upcoming Lenten fish fries. M. Koelzer needs to be contacted so the Sign-Up Genius has slots for these events.

Fr. Jim will announce at all week-end Masses, 2/1 and 2/2, the call for new Welcoming Committee members. Evangelization Commission members have volunteered to help with this recruitment and all Masses are covered. As in other "calls", we will be available in the Gathering Area following the Masses.

Other – Some listened to Fr. John Riccardo’s podcast, Acts XXIX, and heard other ideas for evangelizing. Alpha, Sharing Your Story (as it appears in the bulletin), special speakers, how people encounter God’s Word in the Bible, and areas for children (during Mass) were discussed amongst the commission.

Alpha was mentioned as a possible re-visit at St. Edith’s. Alpha ran for about five years with the last being about seven years ago. To be relevant, Alpha would have needed to be updated with new videos so as not to be “dated.” All this and the areas of people’s interests will be better determined after the completion of the U-M survey. The survey will target specific age groups and their interests and will give us better direction where to go with evangelization.

Next Evangelization Commission Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m., In the Fire Side room.

Opening Prayer – Diane
Closing Prayer – Sharon

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m., with George leading Closing Prayer.

Prepared by: Diane Geverink