

Evangelization Commission Meeting Notes  
November 25, 2019

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

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

**Chairperson's Comments** - The parish council voted to do a survey to see what is on the mind of parishioners. It is believed all commissions will use this information to know what people like and, in our case, to help us better evangelize. The survey will be built by a Survey Methodology class at University of Michigan. This is a project for the class. Five council members will work with the students to determine objective questions pertinent to St. Edith and track by age group. The survey will be a scantron form and results electronically tabulated.

The new parishioner list is sent out four times a year. The parish office assigns which person on Evangelization Commission contacts the new member/family. Three former commission members' names still appear on the list to contact people. Will verify to see if these individuals still wish to make the new member telephone contacts.

We will continue to reach out to inactive parishioners by note cards and phone calls. Josh to send to Sharon the parishioner list, with those noted as "active", so we can continue doing this mission. Suggested the verbiage can be typed and printed and then cut to fit and then pasted inside note card. This way more mailings can be done and still be personal. Beef up the verbiage. Handwrite individual's names and personally sign, then handwritten envelope. A little scripture quote can be included or any other little personal message. Also suggested to mention upcoming activities such as The December Christmas concert or the teaching Mass that Father does in Lent, etc. A note on the card, "I go to 11 o'clock mass and would love to meet you."

M Koelzer will be contacted to add the December 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert to the Welcoming Committee signup.

**Fr. Jim's Comments** - In January wants a definite directive as to what Evangelization looks like. Up to this point, has been waiting for a clear definition from the archdiocese, but that has not happened. Earlier in November the archdiocese sponsored a conference for Unleash the Gospel at Suburban Showcase. Father and parish leadership attended the Friday meeting, but reported that still no concrete directive relative to Evangelization. The Saturday meeting for other parish attendees dealt with subjects such as running small groups, how to give testimonies, etc., which is a lot of what we are already doing.

Presently, what is working best for evangelization is the welcoming. People still sharing with him that they feel St. Edith's is a welcoming parish and says that most people who make appointments are referred to him by word-of-mouth from other parishioners. Need to get more people willing to do welcoming. No age limit and high students should be very much encouraged. Regarding the new parishioner contacts, they should also receive handwritten note cards and follow up phone call in about six months time to see how they are doing. These contacts with new parishioners are more successful than reaching out to inactive members.

The October count at all week-end masses showed that mass attendance is at about 1,400 per week-end. Registered household count increased from 1,800 (2010) to 2,700 (2019). Thirty-eight percent are participating in on-line contributions. Noticed more younger families are coming to mass at St. Edith's. People do have the ability to register with the parish on-line through the website, but not sure if they're getting the Welcome Packet.

*Other* – St. Thomas a'Becket's website has a good overview in one place for people to refer to when looking to see what and how they want (i.e., join a Commission) to be involved with the parish. Downside – may be overwhelming for people. AscensionPress.com has good programs for enrichment and evangelization. Ascension99, found on this site, is a brand new three-day parish retreat featuring Catholic speakers may be of interest for our parish. A sample pack is available on line. A community-welcoming "Town Hall" event at OLV in October was discussed. Mailing distributed to all of Northville and 25 people came to the meeting with five making follow-up appointments with the parish priest. A commission member felt that this was not a good enough return on the investment to investigate further.

**Next Evangelization Commission Meeting: *Monday, January 27, 2020, 7:00 p.m., in the Fire Side room. Note: no meeting in December.***

Opening Prayer: Josh  
Closing Prayer: George

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m., with George leading Closing Prayer.

Prepared by: Diane Geverink