

Evangelization Commission Meeting Notes
October 28, 2019

Present: Fr. Jim, Josh Kugler, Sharon Miller, Richard McGraw, Sandra Rogala, Diane Geverink, Val Cyburt, M. George McConnell, Tom Sawicki, Gail Fisher, Connie Andres, Jim Vick, Judy Wyzlic, Marie Greenlee

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with an inspirational music video, "Loving My Jesus" by Casting Crowns, and then followed with Opening Prayer.

Chairperson welcomed all as this Evangelization Commission meeting was a joint meeting with the Welcoming Committee. Introductions were done by all who attended.

Lots of discussion on welcoming people who walk through the doors of St. Edith. Many thanks to all who have aided in this endeavor. Ushers have been doing a lot of welcoming as well. Fr. Jim said that people have shared with him that they feel very welcomed at St. Edith and that is the reason why they have returned and subsequently registered. We all must be very aware and put ourselves in peoples' shoes who come through our doors (we know how we feel when walking into an unfamiliar church.) It is helpful to be familiar with the *Bulletin*, which contains information on all up-coming events. The current *Bulletin* is available on-line the week-end of those masses.

Welcoming Committee is still encouraged to recruit a friend. Some people do not like a lot of meetings and this committee does not meet regularly, but at least once a year, usually at this time. However, people do need to know what to do, and there is a guideline sheet for this purpose (attached). The first week-end masses are the big push for welcoming, as that is when the pizza and spaghetti dinners occur. Welcoming Committee needs to sign-up for mass assignment via the Sign-up Genius on the parish website. This way Fr. Jim knows in advance so he can announce at the end of mass that people are at the welcoming table to answer questions or assist with registration. Reminder: Welcoming table is directly opposite the main entrance to the church, with a large vertical "Welcome" banner there. It is suggested that the sign-up for masses be expanded from two to four people. This way, visitors and new people can be personally shown where a place is located, i.e. parish library, school, social hall (for coffee and donuts), without leaving the main welcome area abandoned. And better yet, accompany them to coffee and donuts and if you see people sitting alone introduce them to others.

Reminder to wear your badge and badges will be ordered for new committee people. However, one doesn't need a badge to be welcoming. We are all called to do so. Much discussion on how to approach people. The goal of welcoming is to be friendly and greet people and to have a little

conversation, beyond just saying, “Good morning.” By doing this, this is being Christian. It is encouraged to go inside the church proper, not just the gathering area. This models to the people that it is okay to talk to each other (in church) unless someone is engaged in prayer. Welcoming Committee can work other events like fish fries, concerts, blood drives, etc. Members shared this is an excellent time to evangelize and welcome.

Coffee and Donuts are in need of new volunteers as some families are leaving. Coffee and donuts is a great opportunity for welcoming. Volunteers should be out in the hall and not back in the kitchen when people arrive after mass. It was suggested that the volunteers notice who comes regularly and invite them “to give you a hand”. Sometimes people need an invitation to become involved in an activity.

Watch for or have a sense of people who are searching for something at church or have a need. For example, the Adoration Chapel where most week-day morning masses and the Gospel of Life rosary take place and the Prayer Intention Box so all can pray for their intentions. The box is outside the church proper behind the baptismal font. This is evangelizing and welcoming.

The Gospel of Life Committee has been giving the newly baptized families a personally written St. Edith note card of welcome, along with a hand-made rosary by a parishioner, and a beautifully illustrated pamphlet on how to pray the rosary. The Knights of Columbus give an adorable brand new teddy bear as well. These have been very well received by the families.

The chapel doors are now open at 11:00 mass for people to be more comfortable at finding a seat when they arrive. This is thought to be inviting and welcoming to young families who may be running a little late.

There was some discussion on the telephone contacts and note cards done by the Evangelization Commission, but more discussion at the next meeting.

Next Evangelization Commission Meeting: *Monday, November 25, 7:00 p.m., in the Fire Side room. Note: no meeting in December.*

Opening Prayer: Josh
Closing Prayer: Sharon

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m., with Sandy leading Closing Prayer.

Prepared by: Diane Geverink