Evangelization Committee Report – 11/01/2018

Women’s Outreach:

*Walking with Purpose* continues Thursday mornings and evenings.

Men’s Outreach:

*That Man is You* continues Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Rebuilt:

This effort is focused on discerning and recommending ways St. Michael can continue maturing as the Body of Christ in living out the Mission given to her by Christ. Discussion focused on three areas primarily surrounding but not confined to the Liturgy.

*Message:*

The homily is the primary means by which parishioners are evangelized and instructed in the parish. As such and considering that we are all in various stages of Christian maturity, it may also be the most difficult thing to prepare and present in a manner which solicits and effects a response within parishioners through the Holy Spirit.

There was discussion related to having a consistent message presented by all homilists, though it may be presented differently based on the homilist’s style. A suggestion was to provide printed outlines of the homily to help parishioners focus on the message. The message would have three points which would give people something to concentrate on for the week.

* What do you want them to know?
* What do you want them to feel?
* What do you want them to do?

The concept of a message series was discussed which would cover a particular topic over the course of many weeks. The topic could somehow be incorporated within the context of the homilies or following the Mass. Each week would be a progression of the next helping he parish focus progress in it’s understanding and practice of the series topic.

We also have resources available through our RPA (Rebuilt Parish Associate) membership at Church of the Nativity in Timonium. These include resources used for religious education classes, children’s ministry, teens, homilies, message series, music, etc.

*Music:*

Feedback from prior surveys have indicated that some people seem to prefer more traditional music while others prefer contemporary music. Some feel the music is not good, very good or excellent. As we consider participating Catholics, those who are not Catholic and may attend Mass for the first time as well as those who have left the Church for various reasons, the sense is that contemporary music might be more appealing and moving to draw people into the Mass. We are discussing the possibility of experimenting with making the 10:30 Mass a contemporary music Mass. There is also a longer-term consideration of putting up screens and projectors in the sanctuary.

*Ministers:*

Ministers are the tangible presence of God to those they serve. Often, we ask for volunteers but ignore the formation process necessary to help ministers grow in their ministry or even to help them discern the appropriate ministry for their gifts. We would recommend that all participating in ministry attend the Called and Gifted program which will begin next year to help develop a better awareness of the gifts they’ve received and the service they’ve been called to.

We are asking those participating in WWP and TMIY to welcome people at Mass.

*Other:*

To build community and encourage others, spot lighting families in publications or through verbal testimonials might be good to pursue.

We would ask everyone to pray regularly for the team; that in humility and charity, our thoughts, desires and motivations would be set aside; that the Holy Spirit would provide insight and vision for His plans to transform our parish; and that He would make us docile and receptive to them.

Dynamic Catholic:

We are looking at ways to get feedback from parishioners on the books we pass out / make available. To do this we will place an insert inside each book requesting feedback on it. We need to promote the books and will make them available in the library for those who want them to aid in their awareness of the additional resources available in the library.

We have also ordered two additional books from Lighthouse Catholic Media. Each order is for 120 books.

* Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ by Dr. Edward Sri
* Signs of Life: 20 Catholic Customs and Their Biblical Roots by Dr. Scott Hahn

Evangelization Kiosk:

We are considering materials from multiple sources like Dynamic Catholic to also be included in the set of materials made available. We are checking to see if there are any issues using this if there is any signage specific for Lighthouse Catholic Media on the Kiosk.

Divorce Recovery Ministry:

Irene Cochran is stepping down from the Divorce Recovery Ministry and leaving it in the hands of Deacon Harbey Santiago and Ted Burkhardt.

Retreats, Bible Studies, etc.

**Given – Unveiling the Mystery of Marriage Couples Retreat** – This retreat was held in October and was well received by all participants. Participants were from a number of different parishes.

**Called and Gifted** - The Catherine of Siena Institute has developed a small group workshop program to help you discern which of the twenty-four most common Individual Spiritual Gifts have been given to you. Led by Dave Michaels starting January 26th, 2019 and ending in April. Seven Saturdays followed by a break and then 5 more Saturdays.

**Ephesians** Bible Study – Jeff Cavins. Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am beginning October 2nd.

There is also consideration for running programs with the **Catholicism** series by Bishop Robert Barron and **Pivotal Players**.

Marriage Preparation – Looking at **Witness to Love** <https://witnesstolove.org/> and seeking couples who would be willing to be mentors and walk with the couple before and after their wedding day.

Baptismal Preparation – Looking at **Belonging** with Fr. Mike Schmitz to help parents seeking baptism to feel connected with a sense of belonging to the Church. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qv068i0Pss4>

We are exploring the possibility of having Fr. Paul Dressler out again to do a retreat for us. Maybe a 3 -day retreat in February.