

Resources for Parish Evangelization

Ideas from other parishes around the Diocese – from the Pastoral Plan Implementation Report

- Alpha Program for inactive and non-church goers.
- Letter to inactive parishioners to invite them to come and celebrate with the community.
- Evangelization formation for willing parishioners who then call or visit parishioners who are inactive (How-to resources on Archdiocese of Philadelphia website).
- Maintaining a presence in the local community through parades, local festivals, other areas where people are gathered.
- Paper and on-line surveys to identify and address areas of need, especially reaching out to inactive parishioners to get their feedback.
- Personalized contacting new parishioners.
- “Pew Packing Sunday” where each person invites a non-practicing Catholic friend or family member to church, with a community event after Mass.
- Developed small faith sharing groups.
- Evangelization table at parish and community events.
- Volunteers staff a welcome center after each Mass with parish information and personally follow up with visitors during the week.
- Create a welcoming and hospitable environment at all parish events.
- Events for married couples, focusing on those who were recently married or who had children baptized in the past 5 years. Mentorship couples established for continued personal contact with this young married couples.
- Laundromat day – raise funds from parishioners, then give quarters to people at laundromat, help carry clothes, pass our parish information
- Parish prayer booklet for Advent/Lent of parishioner faith stories
- Promote “easy ways to evangelize,” such as greeting cards to non-practicing family or friend, evangelization websites or apps, or “be the door” to the Church through everyday acts of kindness.
- Hold an evangelization prayer service and reflection/discussion with each parish group on the role of each person and group in the Church to evangelize.
- Host neighborhood events, such as neighborhood watch meetings, and engage in relationships with people in the neighborhood.
- Empower people to pray together and share their faith story where groups are already gathered.

Other resources, websites, and programs

Evangelization and Pastoral Planning

- *Living as Missionary Disciples: A Resource for Evangelization*. Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Washington, D.C., 2017. Available online at www.usccb.org or in print from the Office of Evangelization and Pastoral Planning for \$6.50 per copy.
- DOY Lay Ministry Formation Courses – visit www.doy.org and click on “Lay Ministry” under the “Ministries” tab.

General Parishioner engagement

- Alpha for Catholics (alphausa.org/catholic)
 - Meal, talk, and small group discussions – 15 sessions
- Christ Life (christlife.org)
 - Meal, talk, and small group discussions
 - Three, 7-week sessions – Discovering, following, sharing
- Landings
- Renew International (www.renewintl.org)
 - Arise: Together in Christ - Small groups – five, 6-week sessions over 2 ½ years
 - Be My Witness – Two year process: Evangelization and pastoral planning for leadership team, then small group process for parish

One-on-one Parish support

- The Evangelical Catholic (www.evangelicalcatholic.org)
 - Coaching system to train lay leaders - different levels of support
 - 1% challenge

Parish Evangelization Resources

- Amazing Parish (amazingparish.org)
 - Website resources
 - Prayer & Sacraments; Healthy Organization; Evangelization & Discipleship; Sunday Experience
 - Online Video Conferences/Webinars
- Paulist Evangelization Ministries (www.pemdc.org)
 - “The Journey” – personal encounter, being a part of the community, life of discipleship
 - Webinars & DIY resources
 - Small groups, evangelization, becoming an inviting church, social media
- Rebuilt – Book, website, conference (rebuiltparish.com)
- Divine Renovation – Book, website, conference (www.divinerenovation.net)
- Dynamic Catholic – Books to give to parishioners starting at \$1 each; Advent and Lent daily e-reflections.
- Inactive Catholic: catholicscomehome.org; catholicsreturninghome.org; landingsintl.org
- St. Paul Street Evangelization
- 21st Century Catholic Evangelization - <http://www.21stcenturycatholicsevangalization.org/> articles and resources