



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES. JUNE 2021

PURPOSE: TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EVANGELIZATION DISCUSSION FACILITATED BY SISTER MARY AGNES.

Pastor's Note:

- Sister Mary Agnes leaves early July.
- Father Kirby's last weekend was June 12-13th. A small reception was held in Batcheldor Hall after each Mass.
- Father Loi Pham arrived June 16 and his first weekend was June 19-20th. A small welcome reception was held the weekend of June 26-27th.
- Scott Johnson was hired to replace Alaina Ray.

Finance Committee: Greg Schrecke provided a financial summary and statistics. The summary print out was also in bulletin and online for parishioners to view. Collections declined during 2020 and first of 2021 due to COVID. The Finance Committee anticipates collections to recover when attendance gets back to normal levels. We have been paying on principal since 2017. Tuition was not increased this year.

Evangelization:

Sister Mary Agnes began the presentation on the topic of evangelization. She situated the presentation in the context of the parish's strategic plan:

- ***Evangelization Goal:*** To deepen enthusiasm for the Catholic faith amongst members of Saint James Parish and Saint James School, so that in living their faith, they may freely share it with others.
- ***Objective 2.1:*** Research and implement available Catholic resources on the subject of Evangelization and seek appropriate means to educate parishioners on personal witness to the Catholic faith.

Sister's presentation addressed four main questions:

1. What is evangelization?
2. Who evangelizes?
3. Why evangelize?
4. What does evangelization look like?

A summary of these points follows.

1. What is evangelization?

- "The proclamation of Christ and his Gospel by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ's command." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, glossary)
- "To evangelize does not simply mean to teach a doctrine, but to proclaim Jesus Christ by one's words and actions, that is, to make oneself an instrument of His presence and action in the world." (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization*, 2)

2. Who evangelizes?

- Jesus is the great Evangelizer, sent by the Father to proclaim the fulfillment of the promises and the covenant: "*I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent.*" (Luke 4:43)
- By preaching and accompanying signs:

- Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus proclaimed salvation.
- He offered the Kingdom and salvation to every human being.
- Those who accepted gathered into an evangelized—and evangelizing—community. (cf. Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 6-13)
- The Church exists to evangelize. It is her deepest mission. By baptism, each of us is incorporated into the Church and called to share in its mission. We are all called to be evangelizers.
- "Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. SHE EXISTS IN ORDER TO EVANGELIZE, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection." (Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14)
- Every ministry in a parish should be able to say, "We exist in order to evangelize."
- Some important principles of evangelization:
 - We propose the Gospel – we do not impose it.
 - Evangelization flows from our own relationship with Christ and personal faith conviction.

3. Why evangelize?

- The Lord sends us. It is a matter of salvation.
- "The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of Him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the Beloved, to point Him out, to make Him known?" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 264)

4. What does evangelization look like?

- Jesus taught the crowds, He healed, He forgave sins, and He engaged people one-on-one.
- The Church participates in this evangelizing ministry of Jesus through the celebration of the sacraments, homilies, social outreach, faith formation and education, etc.
- For each of us as followers of Christ, evangelization takes many forms:
 - Eucharistic Adoration and the prayer of intercession.
 - Witnessing to the Gospel in word and deed through our daily encounters: by our kindness, our smile, being present to others and listening to them.
 - Deepening our own relationship with Christ and knowledge of Him and the teachings of His Church.
 - Taking the risk of speaking to others about the ways that God has changed our lives, offering words of hope, and even inviting friends or colleagues to consider coming to an event at the parish.
- As a parish, all that we do should be viewed through the lens of evangelization. The way we greet visitors, the way we communicate through our website and publications, the way we steward our resources and serve the poor ... these are all ways that we evangelize as a faith community.
- Evangelization is not a single pillar of the parish – it *is* the parish's mission.

Meeting closed at 7:35. No meetings in July or August.

Questions/Recommendations? Contact the parish council directly at: parishcouncil@sjschoolonline.org or [Lou Edmondson at 502.777.7025](mailto:Lou.Edmondson@502.777.7025)