

## Summary of Evangelization Training For St. Anne Parish

### 17 Parish Evangelization Opportunities We Discovered:

1. We need the Ushers more involved with their role at the weekend Masses. This is one of the best ways the parish can expand with creating a culture of encounter. Activities should include helping and assisting folks from their car all the way to the pews. Just saying hello and other greetings are important. Identifying someone new to the parish and starting a brief conversation can make people feel welcomed and important to the parish. Also be available after Mass with the same effort and follow up.
2. Our youth who are to be confirmed can shadow the ushers and be trained to usher. They can learn how to shake hands, introduce themselves, and take the initiative to be outgoing. Our youth can minister, with the ushers, to those who need assistance at Mass. The youth can help the infirmed get to a pew where they can be comfortable and receive Eucharist easily. They can help parents with strollers etc. Have them wear a coat, tie and presentable pants.
3. The “Christ Renews His Parish” program is an excellent opportunity for evangelization, and to get more parishioners involved with our parish.
4. Start a Men’s fellowship and a men’s prayer group.
5. For one Sunday a month, at 10 am Mass, do a children’s sermon where the younger ones are brought up to sit around the altar for a short lesson.
6. Start a Women’s Group. Collect toiletries for Nursing homes and homeless. Put little things into a stocking for children who are uprooted due to domestic abuse, car accidents etc. Baskets for babies that the parish puts together for those just born. Have a drive for baby items.
7. Have a “mixed marriage” welcome gathering. Make non-Catholic spouses or attendees feel more welcome; for example: explaining that non-Catholics may go up to receive a blessing even though they cannot receive Communion. We need to communicate these things better. Non-Catholics can sing in the choir for example, join a men’s or women’s group, attend Bible Study etc.
8. Form a “Newcomers Ministry” that’s designated to notice newcomers and welcome them.
9. Encourage people to say hello to those who enter the pews at Mass. At the beginning of Mass announce to everyone to say hello to those around you.
10. Send an invitation /welcome letter to all new homeowners in the area. We estimated over 8,500 new homes going up in a 3-mile radius. Sending letters to new households, regardless of religion, is a great evangelization opportunity. Develop an exciting parish brochure and make sure we have lots to offer to everyone and anyone. Bible studies, prayer groups, ethnic dinners, Masses. etc., whatever we do that might appeal to non-Catholics and Catholics as well. This should all be in English and Spanish.
11. Send a sincere invitation to non-Catholic Spouses. Have a Family Day with treats for everyone. We need to offer and encourage mixed families ways to participate in our parish.
12. Reach out to colleges, career centers, etc. with invitational literature. Contact can be made through guidance counselors at schools.

13. Have a gathering for new people to come together and learn about our parish. Do it twice a quarter to start and more or less as needed. This would be a time for new families/members to meet each other and learn about our parish - meet our priests and deacons and office staff, learn who is responsible for what. Talk about Faith Formation for their kids, ministries to help them and their family, RCIA, Outreach, Prayer Shawls, Bible Study, Guardian Angels, music . . . all the ministries. Explain to them everything that will go on in the parish over the coming year, from the Halloween party to the Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage and how they can participate. This includes especially, mixed households with non-Catholic spouses. NO STRINGS ATTACHED. Also ask them to share what would be most helpful to them and to consider how they might contribute to making it happen. NB: Under no circumstances do we talk about money, time and talent. First, we invite a discussion about what we have to offer. Let them decide what that is worth to them.
14. At every coffee and donuts, there should be a newcomers table. It must be front and center with information, manned by people who are active in the parish, know what is going on and are outgoing to welcome people who come over. That it exists, should be announced from the Ambo every week.
15. Recruiting parishioners to pray for a specific youth who is on a mission trip or a retreat or preparing for Confirmation. Let the young person know who is praying for them and create interest among the older generation to have a relationship with the youth. So many say, I am too old, I wouldn't know what to do. Well, we will tell them what to do, but for now, pray for so and so.
16. Go to school fairs armed with colorful bags filled with information for parents and kids. Include a little gift and information about St. Anne parish and our outreach - Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul, Youth Group etc. Make it a generic bag so that Catholic and non-Catholic alike can enjoy it.
17. Form a public prayer ministry. By public we mean, someone runs it, but it is not limited to Catholics, St. Anne parishioners or the sick and dying. We would need prayer warrior volunteers who would agree to pray daily for those on the list. Then someone to take the prayer requests and turn them around in a very timely fashion and put out a monthly list of those on the list and why. This would not be an easy task. Anyone can ask to be on the list. Prayers can be for safety, joys, job loss, job search, a healthy pregnancy, for disasters, etc. Anything and everyone! And people do not come off the list until the requesting person updates the ministry and asks to be taken off. This may be a daunting task, but it allows us to offer people we meet in the community a gift.