

31 Seeds for thought and prayer about Evangelizing

In Church history, great things most often happened under saintly individual vision and leadership. Apostolic teams usually worked under the authority of gifted leaders loyal to higher Church authority. A team is not a committee.

- *Does the Holy Spirit want us to delay doing much until we feel more comfortably holy or can He begin to use us as we are in ways that are bolder than we think?*
- *Should some of us recruit sub-teams to develop specific evangelizing services?*

I Ongoing Self Evangelizing of team members and inward team evangelization.

II Local Catholic Radio Transmitter

III. Person to Person evangelizing: Each family in parish prayerfully invites one cold Catholic back to Church, or one unchurched person to Catholic Inquiry each year.

IV. Teach a course in evangelizing.

1. outreach evangelizing
2. inreach evangelizing
3. inviting and welcoming
4. defending our faith

V. Monthly Unity Breakfast.

1. Before Sunday Mass.
2. prayer for parish
3. speakers
4. video, sometimes
5. study course
6. open discussion

VI St. Monica Novena:

Develop 9 sessions of prayer and teaching for parents and grandparents concerned about their children and grandchildren who no longer go to Church or are in a Protestant fellowship.

VII Catholic Booth at Flea Market

1. Catholic Information,
2. free iced tea
3. free handouts, literature, mass and confession schedules, CCD registration etc.
4. Religious books and gifts for sale.
5. Invite to Mass, Catholics returning Home, Catholic Inquiry sessions, etc.
6. Give away crosses, medals, plastic rosaries, etc.
7. What else?

VIII Neighborhood Home Bible Sharing Groups Try again. One or two team members sit in on the first sessions.

IX. Daily Prayer Partners.

1. Groups of 2 or 3 parishioners who pray briefly together daily.
2. May be done by phone or face to face.
3. Try to get together face to face at least once a week.
4. May be family prayer for our parish.
5. **Three main intentions:** (1.) *Unity and love in Precious Blood Parish.* (2.) *Personal on-going conversion.* (3.) *Good marriages and vocations.*
6. All partnerships meet together periodically, coordinated by core team. (perhaps with a meal.)
7. Minimum daily commitment: one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Or a prayer sheet provided by core. Other options for some may be a rosary, visit to tabernacle, Liturgy of the hours, brief Lectio divina, spontaneous prayer, etc.
8. May agree to abstain on Fridays or do other self denials to strengthen prayer.
9. Monthly Prayer Partner Newsletter.

X. Home Visitors.

1. Always with 2 partners; one who does most of the visiting, listening and talking, another who primarily prays quietly and smiles.
2. Witness by modesty of dress and respectful appearance. Wear a medal or cross or other sign of Catholic witness.
3. Team partners must be personally growing in the Lord themselves.
4. Maybe hand out literature, or do a questionnaire or survey as an obvious reason for being there.
5. Answer questions about our Catholic Faith. Prepare ahead of time for some brief responses to the most common questions and misconceptions. Offer to find out about other concerns.
6. Invite their children to catechism.
7. Leave a Mass and Confession schedule. Invite to Mass, Bible study, parish mission, or Catholic inquiry sessions.
8. Offer to pray with them, over them, or for them for any needs or blessings. Carry holy water.
9. Some people may only be lonely and simply want to visit. That's OK too.
10. Look for needs for Corporal Works of Mercy.

XI Beer and Bible Ministry

1. We need to take the Good News out to people who need it most.
2. 3 or 4 men or couples, (but probably not women alone) meet weekly in a local bar for Bible study, prayer, public Christian fellowship. or just witness of presence.
3. Let curiosity invite patrons to our table rather than us going out after them.
4. Greet everyone in a friendly non-elitist way.
5. When one or two members are talking to someone, some of us just pray silently to the Holy Spirit.
6. Plan ahead how to handle any possible hostility in a Christian way.
7. Be sure our own drinking is in moderation.
8. Have fun and enjoy yourself.

9. Get to know, especially, non-practicing Catholics, but others also.

XII Catholics Returning Home Try again.

- Road and yard signs.
- On going Journal classifieds

XIII Catholic Inquiry

- Before Sunday Mass or after Saturday Mass.
- Drop-in station (tables at both entrances)
- Regular sessions

XIV Encourage daily Mass attendance and Eucharistic Adoration (how?)

XV Parish Retreats and Parish Missions. (Try again. Keep trying.)

XVI Parish Publicity (Catholic events news releases.)

XVII Coffee Socials (How can we make them more attractive?)

XVIII Monthly Catholic Husbands, Fathers, and Future Fathers Meeting.

1. Social fellowship with other Catholic men.
2. Promote Catholic family values and Catholic identity.
3. Possibly meet as a group in a bar or restaurant.
4. For video, etc. may occasionally meet in Church Hall or Center.
5. Prayer together, speaker, teaching.
6. Activities, parish help, help for the needy.
7. Not so much focus on organization maintenance.
8. Possible fund raising activities for parish needs and/or for the missions.

XXI Family Fun Nights

- Like 10 years ago at Seifert Hall, St Fredericks
- Dinner and refreshments
- Games
- Dance, disc jockey or live band
- Sing along
- Amateur skits
- Amateur Talent show, song and dance, musical instruments, magic, comedians

XXII Fun and Praise Band

- Pray and practice together once a week
- Need not be accomplished musician to join. Help each other learn.
- Enjoy reviving old High School band skills
- Christian and humorous songs punctuated by short evangelizing messages.
- Old time songs to entertain at nursing home.
- Play at parish and community events
- Any parishioner welcome with their instrument or vocal talent.

XXIII Puppet Theatre

- Entertain Children and adults
- High School kids and adults on team
- Build a colorful portable stage
- Make various puppets
- Bible stories, morality plays, lives of saints, catechetical skits
- Interact with audience
- Clown out front talks to puppets and to kids.

XXIV Men's evening or days of renewal

- Like we used to have
- At parish facilities or at someone's camp

XXV Alter calls

- Billy Graham does great with this.
- Come forward to publicly proclaim a commitment to Jesus
- May develop a Catholic style
- Light a candle, put incense on coals, kiss the cross, etc.
- Recite a promise prayer of commitment
- Special hymn as people process forward

XXVI Revitalize Charismatic prayer group

- Life in the Spirit Seminars
- Share our vision with them

XXVII Evangelize in existing ministries

- Parents pre-Baptism, Pre-Marriage, choir, catechist meetings, lectors, RCIA, communion ministers, alter servers

XXVIII Internet Evangelizing

- E-mail, blogs, website

XXIX Charter Bus Pilgrimages / Retreats

- In the bus prayer services, hymn singing, praise, rosaries, chaplets, Liturgy of the Hours, as we travel.
- Use bus intercom for speakers, witness talks, teachings, Bible sharing
- Visit shrines, grottos, Cross in the Woods,
- Steubenville Summer Conferences
- Pope visits
- Eucharistic Congresses
- EWTN Alabama
- Pro-Life rallies
- Trips to help missionaries or poverty ministries in works of mercy
- Men's conferences
- Events at our Cathedral
- Prophetic speakers at another parish, near or far. Scott Hahn, etc.

XXX Invite prophetic teachers to our parish

- Letters to neighboring parishes with invitations for their bulletin
- Advertise in newspaper. Invite public and Catholics
- Post invitations at local business and community bulletin boards
- Coffee and bars or snacks

XXXI What else?

- Your ideas from the Lord
- Brainstorm in the Holy Spirit