

Evangelization Tools for the Parish

Promote One At a Time and Do It Well!

Forming an Evangelization Team: Enlist the support of people who have a thirst to bring others closer to Jesus Christ and the Church. Take time and pray together to the Holy Spirit to discern what is most needed at the parish now. Work toward this goal by helping: People to know and love more deeply the person of Jesus Christ (*Go Deeper*). The parish to become a vibrant community alive in Christ and burning with love of neighbor (*Go Wider*). Catholics to invite those on the margins to encounter the joy of Christ and to feel at home in the parish family (*Go Out*).

- **Franciscan at Home** online learning as a group; workshops with 10-min videos followed by application questions.
First Proclamation and Evangelization Track: Register for FREE
 - 1) franciscanathome.com/diocese-la-crosse scroll to bottom.
 - 2) Click “My parish or school is already registered...”
 - 3) “Create an Account.” Select Diocese of La Crosse from drop down menu; Fill in City, Parish and Click “Sign Up.” Scroll to “Franciscan Track’s” & select “First Proclamation & Evang.”

Small Group Ministry: We need to grow as disciples of Christ as a parish family, supporting, encouraging, and correcting each other. Ongoing study and reflection with other Catholics is a necessary component of the Christian life. It builds community and a sense of belonging in our parishes; it develops strong friendships in Christ; it provides a specific time to deepen our relationship with the Lord. Some of the best programs are:

- Discovery, Source, Growth, Trust, Commission: Booklets by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO Series thru Cedar House) See recording of parish who has used for 5 yrs.: diolc.org/catechesis/recordings-for-your-ministry
- *Lectio Eucharist Bible Study* by Brant Pitre, 10 sessions
- *OREMUS: Prayer with Scripture* by Fr. Mark Toups, DVD – 8

Bulletin Inserts: One-page bulletin inserts, provided through the Chancery Bulletin, are written to spark a deepening engagement with Christ and the Faith, as well as to explain the meaning behind the upcoming liturgical celebration. These bi-monthly inserts are not meant to compete with a pastor’s column but for personal reading and then passing on to a friend. Prior bulletin inserts found here: diolc.org/evangelization/questions

Praying with Scripture is a way of prayerfully pondering a Bible passage in which you encounter the Person of Christ. There is a deepening process that starts in the head and goes to the heart as the Holy Spirit makes a connection between the persons and events in the Scripture and your own personal life by reminding you of something from your life. Encourage simple preparation of the Sunday Gospel: diolc.org/catechesis/praying-with-scripture

Lector Training using “The Great Adventure Bible Timeline”

Lead all lectors to a deep love for the Word of God through studying the “Big Picture” of the Bible.

- The Bible Timeline by Jeff Cavins or
- T3: The Teen Timeline for young adults by Mark Hart

Pray a Novena to the Holy Spirit: Everyone responds to a cause – Parish Renewal, return of fallen-away Catholics, growth in RCIA, etc.

Catholic Life Magazine contains compelling stories about how people in our Diocese have encountered Jesus.

- Use featured “Discipleship Questions” for meeting discussion
- Draw attention to a particular story in the parish bulletin

The Word Among Us: Provide this helpful booklet which includes Scripture readings, prayers and daily meditations based on daily Mass as well as practical featured articles for the liturgical season and saints. wau.org Bulk prices. Highly popular where used.

Parish Pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place to come closer to God. The time together bonds the parish community spiritually.

- Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse
- Visit Our Lady of Good Help Shrine in Champion, WI

How Does God Guide Us?

How does somebody go about seeking guidance from God? How can we tell if it's just us talking to ourselves or if we're listening to God? Learning to listen to God and recognize the different ways He gives you guidance every day will help you to develop a growing friendship with Him. 10 sessions at diolc.org/deeper

Calendars with Sacred Art: Distribute a calendar at the parish for the New Year that contains Sacred Art, such as images of Jesus, Mary, or the saints including brief explanations.

A 3-minute vetted Conversion Story at the end of Mass: Invite a person who has experienced conversion (at least 2 yrs. prior) to give a brief testimony. A simple worksheet for preparation is available at diolc.org/evangelization

Prayer: Becoming a committed disciple requires the habit of daily prayer; provide resources from diolc.org/deeper for adults; diolc.org/prayer for youth. Protect the time before & after Mass for prayer & allow silence during Mass for encountering Jesus Christ.

Parish Mission: Move hearts with preaching they are not used to.

Sacramental Prep for Parents to grow in their own faith when their baby is baptized, child receives First Communion or teen is confirmed. diolc.org/catechesis/sacramental-prep

Lay Formation Institute develops spiritual, intellectual and pastoral abilities of adult parish leaders for the New Evangelization. Form an army to be leaven by sending two parishioners every two years.

What's the Story with You and God? Our Parish Communities need more witnesses – people who are able to articulate the ways that they have encountered God and how He has worked in their lives. Ann Lankford, Chris Carstens & Chris Ruff guide groups through this enjoyable process of helping participants to give an answer “to anyone who asks [them] for a reason for [their] hope” (1 Pt 3:15).

Give out a Good Catholic Book from the parish to each family that attends Mass on Christmas and/or Easter. This stirs people to want to know more. Spiritual reading is a path to committed daily prayer. Over a six week period, it works well if the priest/deacon mentions some aspect of a few chapters at Mass each week, which inspires people to complete the book. (Cost of books from \$2 - \$4)

- *The Ultimate Relationship*, \$1 from Office for C & E
- *Living Joy* by Chris Stefanick from Augustine Institute
- *Catholic and Christian, An Explanation of Commonly Misunderstood Catholic Beliefs* by Alan Shreck. \$2 Dyn Cath

Parish or Deanery Retreat allows people to step away from their busy life, quiet down and enter more deeply into prayer. Cursillo Retreats are structured weekend retreats that place a strong emphasis on community and evangelization with the goal of helping people become more *fully* Catholic, by enriching a personal relationship with God, experiencing faith more deeply and living it out in daily life alongside a more bonded community. Follow-up with small groups. catholicretreats.net/cursillo-retreats

Pew Cards provided throughout the year to recognize areas of need

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