

Welcome and thank you for
your interest in CEO.

CEO

Catholic Evangelization Outreach

ST. MARGARET MARY CHURCH

7813 SHELBYVILLE ROAD

EVANGELIZATION MISSION

To know and follow Christ, and help others do the same.

To re-energize those who currently participate in our faith and to welcome back those who have drifted away. To encourage a deeper relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Why Evangelize?

We are commanded by Christ to evangelize. The last words that the writer of the Gospel of Matthew records Jesus saying is, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (New American Bible, Matthew 28:19-20)

Evangelization Plan

- Begin to nurture friendships. Friendship is the original model of evangelization and establishes trust and mutual respect. This brings about openness and acceptance that leads to a productive dialogue.
- Pray for people we are trying to reach. Prayer opens our hearts to God and His ways.
- Tell your story. Despite how ordinary you think it is, people will relate to your journey and be inspired by it.
- Monthly outreach gatherings, including witness talks. Testify to Christ and speak about your relationship with Him and the Church. Each speaker will focus on a topic, such as improving our prayer life, strengthening our marriage, struggling with our selfish nature, and coping with depression, abuse, or anger.

When St. Pope John Paul II was asked, “Who do we Evangelize?”

Evangelize the Evangelizer | Evangelize the Active | Evangelize the Inactive | Evangelize the Alienated | Evangelize the Un-Churched

HOW CEO BEGAN

Catholic Evangelization Outreach began in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in October 2011, by a local Catholic parishioner, Pete Mathison, who asked God how he was being called to serve.

When the Lord spoke to Pete about starting this ministry, He made it clear that it was to be a lay persons' ministry, as our priests are overburdened with the day-to-day operation of their parishes.

The purpose of CEO is for lay people to share their experience of how God has moved in their lives to bring them into a personal relationship with Him. Speakers are carefully chosen, and their presentation is reviewed ahead of time by a small team to ensure that the talk is well-organized, and that all remarks are grounded in scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

CEO is a “Christ-centered, lay-driven, grass roots ministry” organized and presented by ordinary people for ordinary people. In 2014 Donna Lang introduced CEO to formation leadership at St. Margaret Mary. (***For more information visit www.stmm.org/ceo***)

“In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.”

- Pope Francis, “The Joy of the Gospel”

++++
“It is not enough for us to receive Jesus Christ ourselves; we must also bring Him to others.” - ***Saint Pope John Paul II***

Prayer for the New Evangelization

Heavenly Father, pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture. Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News.

Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others. Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions. In moments of hesitation, remind me:

If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might hear the call of the New Evangelization to deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

- *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Please visit www.stmm.org for more information about CEO and to view the witness talks.

If you would like to be involved in helping with this ministry, email us at ceo@stmm.org.

For information about introducing CEO to your parish please contact:

Donna Lang, 502-709-5077

Thank you and God Bless.