The LEGION OF MARY

Philadelphia Senatus

EVANGELIZATION DAYS

and

CONSERVATION DAYS
EVANGELIZATION DAY
A one day Door to Door Home Visitation project in a parish.

Or a Conservation Day directed at homes of parishioners only.

The focus of Legion of Mary “E-Days” is direct evangelization – the all-inclusive door to door visitation of definite areas of a parish, using the proven methods of legionary visitation with the authentic legionary spirit. Conservation days focus on the direct visitation of lax or lapsed parishioners.

The parish will recruit as many workers as possible. No experience required.

The Legion of Mary will facilitate the day including providing experienced workers, explaining the approach, making the assignments, giving out the materials, and preparing a report for the pastor from the data collected by the visitors.

Agenda for the day:

Mass followed by continental breakfast. Provided by the parish.

Meeting to train the workers in the approach and information to be gathered, assign teams of two to a block and street to be visited. Conducted by the Legion of Mary. About one hour and a half.

Visit the homes. Two hours.

Return for lunch provided by the parish, and to report on visits. About one and a half hours.

Typical results:

For every 20 workers (10 teams) we can visit 400 homes and have a faith sharing contact with 200 families. And we can expect to turn up about 20 to 30 homes for follow-up: non-attending and unregistered Catholics, un-churched, and interested non-catholics.
Objective:

To start an ongoing home visitation program, preferably a parish Legion of Mary group. This will give a chance to make a personal one-on-one contact with every family within the parish boundaries. The one day program will enable those from the parish who do the visits to see how easy and effective it really is, and that they can do it, and what can happen from their efforts.

Preparation:

Recruit the workers. Flyers out to Legionaries. Notices in the parish bulletin. Appeal from the pulpit at parish masses.

Map showing the streets to be visited. Provided by the parish.

Prepare materials to be used on the visits. Especially a flyer from the parish with Mass times and other parish information – this will be given to every home visited.

To get started: call Don Taggart at 610-304-7434. Or write to: Legion of Mary, 5109 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia PA 19141.
Training Notes
Door to Door Evangelization

Remember to Smile. The approach: humble, gentle, respectful, cheerful.

Here is an opening line you may use:
Hi! We are from St. Mary’s Catholic Church, and we are visiting all of the homes in the neighborhood today. On behalf of our pastor, Fr. Charles McElroy, we would like to invite you to visit our church. (Point out the times of the Masses as you hand them the Parish Bulletin.)

Then continue with a question: Would you happen to be active in any church in the area?

The response could be: Yes, I belong to Philadelphia Baptist Church. We could say: That’s a Christian church. We’re a Christian church. So we have a lot in common. Especially the Bible. We could ask if they have ever visited a Catholic church. Are they familiar with the Catholic service? Explain the Mass: songs, prayers, scripture readings, preaching, communion service (chance to explain the Eucharist – use Eucharist leaflet – picture of Last Supper – Our Lord’s own words – This is my body – This is my blood – changes the bread and wine into His own body and blood – still looks like bread and wine but we believe it has truly changed – and we receive Our Lord Jesus – this is one of the central beliefs of our Catholic Faith).

or

The response could be: Yes, I have my own church. We could ask is it a Christian church? And continue as above.

or

The response could be: No, I don’t have a church. So we continue with our invitation to visit our church. We could ask if they are baptized or have ever thought of going to church or of getting baptized. Use the leaflet Why Catholicism which is a scripture based explanation of the Catholic Church as the one true church, and our sacraments. Use the leaflet on Baptism. Takes away all our sins – makes us a child of God. Any children in the family?

or

If it looks like the contact is only going to be brief, ask if there are any Catholics in the family? Maybe they used to be Catholic. Maybe a parent is Catholic – why aren’t they? Offer the Speak Lord prayer leaflet with the picture of the Sacred Heart on it.

To all we contact, Catholic and non-Catholic, we can offer the gift of the Miraculous Medal and the gift of the Rosary. Take them out of their plastic bag and show them to the person. Explain the medal – our mother Mary – Jesus gave her to us and us to her - on Calvary. The Rosary is scripture based – covers the events in the life of Jesus and Mary.
Other Principles of Home Visitation:
- Aim at listening instead of talking. Earn the right to say one word by listening to fifty.
- Try not to ask prying questions, only loving ones.
- We do not visit as equals; we visit as inferiors to superiors.
- Try to make each visit Catholic by talking about the Mass, the Eucharist, and Our Lady.
- Do not irritate or contradict. Do not lecture. Do not argue.
- Make a friend. Leave the door open for a return visit.
- Say a little prayer to yourself as you approach the home.
- Love those we encounter – that is the key to real influence.
- Religion is spread by love. We take it only from those we think friendly and genuine.
- Offer to pray with those visited. Ask if they have a particular intention.
- Ask them to pray for us. Pray for world peace.
- Aim at leading everyone we meet closer to God.

Handouts:
Every door we knock on gets the parish bulletin.
For contacts: Use Miraculous Medals, and other leaflets appropriate to the conversation.

The White and Yellow Cards:

1. Please use a line on the white card for every door you knock on. On the top of each white card fill in the street name, the date, and the names of the visitors. Down the left column list the house numbers. Fill in or check off the appropriate boxes across the line for each house number. Write as much information as you can. Use the back of the card also. Do not write in the presence of those you visit. Make notes as you go to the next door. If there is a need for follow-up, please mark an * on the white card next to the house number.

2. When the visits are all completed, for each follow-up, write out the details on a Yellow Card. Please write neatly. The forms will be used by the priest and the Legionaries for follow-up visits. Examples of contacts for which a follow-up card should be prepared: those who don’t have a church, those who express interest in our message, non-attending Catholics, persons who are not baptized, Catholics who have not received all of their sacraments, shut-ins who should be on the Communion Call list, parents inquiring about Catholic school for their children, children not receiving religious instructions.
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<th>Inactive Catholic</th>
<th>Mirac. Medal</th>
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Tips for Evangelization Day Organizers and Leaders

Preparing for the day:
Meet with the pastor at least two months before the scheduled day. This allows time for both the parish and the Legion to recruit workers. Agree on the schedule for the day and the approach to be used. Discuss what both the parish and the Legion will do.

Prepare a flyer to recruit workers and distribute through Legion groups in your area.

Obtain the literature supplies you will need for the day.

Hold a Miraculous Medal party, where you get a group of Legionaries to string the medals and chains and put with the leaflet.

Prepare the literature kits, one for each team, including the data gathering cards. To each kit should be added 40 parish flyers.

Prepare assignments enough for all the teams you expect. Make a few extra, for last minute arrivals. Each assignment should consist of a map with the street and blocks highlighted. For door to door in row house neighborhoods, each assignment should cover about 40 addresses. Each map should be numbered, and this will be the team number.

Keep a list of the names, addresses and phone numbers of the workers as they register. Also note who will have a car, and who is a first-timer. Take this list with you to the E-Day.

Make enough copies of the Training Instructions so that each worker gets one along with a blank white and yellow card. Bring a supply of pens in case some need them. The training instructions should be tailored to each parish and the planned approach.

On the day:
After Mass and while the team is having breakfast, check off on your list who is there and register last minute arrivals.

Start the training and assignment meeting with a prayer. Have the training instructions given out to each team member.

One person will do the training. At the same time, one person will make up the teams and assign them to a street. Assign experienced workers with first-timers. Make sure there is a car in each team. If necessary, two teams can go in one car. Make sure they’re assigned in the same neighborhood.

At the end of the training, assign the teams and give each team one literature kit. Announce the time – two hours after going out - that the teams are expected back for lunch. Instruct them to work on their reports and follow-up cards during lunch.
After all have returned and had time for lunch and preparation of the reports, start the reporting meeting. Call on each team to come to the front and give a summary of their visits plus each person to give one highlight visit. While the reporting is ongoing you could keep a list of calls and contacts and at the end do a quick addition and report the totals to all before closing with a prayer.

Make sure each team hands in all their cards – white and yellow – and their literature kit.

**After the day:**
Review all the white cards. Make sure they make sense. Is there a yellow follow-up card for each house which should have one? If not, prepare one.

Prepare a summary report for the pastor.

Sort the white cards in alphabetical order by street.

Sort the yellow cards by relative importance.

Call the pastor to make an appointment and deliver the report and cards.
Evangelization Day Literature Items and Sources

**Miraculous Medals** and Chains - $55.00 per hundred – from Senatus

A Gift for You leaflet for MM - $5.00 per hundred - Senatus

**Rosaries** – from Legionaries who make them

**Pillar of Fire Pillar of Truth** – $140 per 200 - Catholic Answers 888-291-8000

**From Catholic Faith Alive** – 877-324-8492
   - Why Catholicism leaflet – $36 for 300
   - Is Sunday Mass Necessary? - $36 for 300
   - A Brief Guide to Confession - $10 per hundred

**From Marians of the Immaculate Conception** 800-462-7426
   - Speak Lord leaflet - $18 per hundred
   - Rosary leaflet (English & Spanish) - $18 per hundred
   - Chaplet of Divine Mercy card - $12 per hundred

**From New Hope Publications** 270-325-3061
   - Baptism leaflet - $12 per hundred
   - Eucharist leaflet - $12 per hundred
   - Confirmation leaflet - $12 per hundred
   - Mary and the Gospel of Life - $12 per hundred

**From Our Sunday Visitor** 800-348-2440
   - Top Ten Reasons to Come Back to the Catholic Church - $65 for 200

**From Human Life International** 540-635-7884
   - This We Believe

February 20, 2009
Visitation B.V.M. Parish Evangelization Day 
Saturday, June 4th, 2005

Lehigh Avenue and B Street
Philadelphia PA 19125

Agenda
8:00 am Mass in the Parish Church
Continental Breakfast
Assignment Meeting
11:00 am Visiting Homes with Partner
1:00 pm Lunch
Reports to the Pastor
3:00pm Conclusion

Please Register by completing the form below and Mailing to:
Don Taggart
105 Stable Road
Norristown PA 19403

Contact persons:
Don Taggart 610-304-7434
Donna Gillen 215-632-0249
Frank Fernandez 610-449-4801

Visitation Evangelization Day Registration

Name: _____________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________

Phone: _____________________________________________

I have a car: Yes ___ No ___
June 7, 2005

Visitation BVM Catholic Church
Report on June 4, 2005 Evangelization Day

Led by Msgr. Hugh J. Shields, Pastor, and Sister Linda Lukiewski, S.S.J., Director of Religious Education, a team of over 20 parishioners was joined by 34 Legion of Mary members from the area for a parish Evangelization Day, on Saturday, June 4, 2005, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The day began with Holy Mass followed by a light breakfast prepared by the parish. Then all participated in a 1.5 hour meeting consisting of a brief training session, assignment in pairs to a street and block in the parish, and getting the data gathering forms and a packet of literature and sacramentals to be used on the visitation. The main item to be given at each home was a specially prepared color flyer about the parish in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese containing Mass times and other services provided by the parish along with contact information.

Twenty-four teams went door-to-door on the assigned streets, introducing themselves from Visitation Catholic Church and inviting all they met to visit our church. During the 11:00am to 1:00pm visits they knocked on 975 doors, contacting someone in 418 homes, and making 566 contacts, of whom 223 were Catholic, and of these 119 were inactive. Identified for follow-up visits were 82 homes. Among those contacted were 16 potential converts, 51 children and 3 adults who are not baptized (some of whom would also need Confirmation, Penance, and First Communion), 11 baptized children who need other sacraments, 1 couple who want to be married in church, 3 families who asked to be registered in the parish, 1 family who requested a visit of the Pilgrim Virgin statue, 10 requested visit by a priest, and 2 who want to become active members of the Legion of Mary.

On returning from their visits, the teams were treated to a wonderful lunch provided by the parish. Then, in a short reporting meeting, each team gave a summary of their visits and one highlight contact, and the day was done. A summary sheet is attached.
Holy Cross Parish, Springfield, Delaware County
October 20, 2007 Evangelization Day Report

Under the leadership of Msgr. Joseph Duncan, pastor, Beth Riordan, Ronnie Sidebottom and Don Taggart, a team of 49, made up of mostly Legion of Mary members of Holy Cross and other area parishes, conducted a door-to-door visitation in one of the neighborhoods in the parish. Ten of the team were from Holy Cross parish. Eighteen of the team were doing door-to-door evangelization for the first time.

Following the 8:30am parish Mass, and a training and assignment meeting, they went out two by two, inviting those they met to come and visit Holy Cross Church. They gave out a flyer containing mass times and other contact information to all homes visited.

A total of 692 homes were called on, with contacts made in 267 (37%) of those homes. A total of 317 persons were contacted. Of these, 237 (75%) were Catholic, of whom 75 (32%) were inactive.

During the contacts, the visitors encouraged those inactive to come back, offering Miraculous Medals and Rosaries with explanations, and also spoke about the Eucharist and the Real Presence of Jesus. Leaflets on the Eucharist and Baptism were left where appropriate, and a leaflet encouraging the inactive to return was also left.

A total of 112 were identified for follow-up visits. These included 75 inactive Catholics, 8 families to be registered in the parish, 6 children needing Baptism, 1 child needs First Holy Communion, 4 interested non-Catholics, 4 shut-ins, 2 bereavement, 6 possible active members, and 14 possible auxiliary members for the Legion.

Given out were 79 miraculous medals and 31 rosaries with explanation along with other leaflets on the Catholic Faith and the Eucharist.

Following the visits, the team was treated to a wonderful lunch provided by the parish. They had earlier been provide with a continental breakfast, after the morning Mass. Two parishioners helped to set up and serve the meals.

October 26, 2007
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<th>Contacts</th>
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Summary of Door to Door Visits
10/26/2007
Holy Cross Parish
Springfield, Delaware County
Report on St. Mary’s Evangelization Day

History was made on April 20, 2013, when 105 evangelizers, continuing “the Acts of the Apostles”, were sent out two-by-two by Fr. Stephen DeLacy, St. Mary’s priest in residence. They were sent on door to door visits in the town of Schwenksville, PA and surrounding countryside, to share the good news of their Catholic Faith with neighbors and strangers of all denominations, churched and unchurched.

This was an historic occasion, because it is unlikely, that ever before in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, has so large a group of lay persons, ever conducted a one day parish apostolic evangelization project making door to door visits, where they attempted to engage all of those contacted in a discussion of Catholic truths about Jesus True Presence in the Eucharist and Mary’s true place as our Mother and channel of graces in God’s plan of salvation.

The day began with the Legion Prayers and Rosary and the celebration of Holy Mass by Fr. DeLacy in St. Mary’s Church. In his homily Fr. DeLacy compared the many first time evangelizers to Ananias who was fearful when sent by God to Paul in Damascus. Mass was followed by registration, team assignments, a continental breakfast, and a training session where the materials and approach to be used in the visits was reviewed. Then all were sent out. Among the 47 teams were quite a few families including teenage and younger children, men and women of all ages, 70 of whom were St. Mary’s parishioners and 35 who were Legion of Mary members from area parishes.

The approach was to invite every home to come and visit St. Mary’s. The main item given at every home was a special 4-page parish bulletin in color. The cover was a special letter from Pastor, Fr. Charles McElroy, complete parish contact information, and a listing of all Mass times. The rest of the bulletin contained information on St. Mary’s school, plus a short description of every St. Mary’s Church organization and activity.
In the visits, emphasis was given to sharing what we believe as Catholics, and leaving literature appropriate to the conversation, especially Miraculous Medals and Rosaries, and the Eucharist. There were many contacts with non-attending and lapsed Catholics. And we met many non-Catholics, many of whom were Lutheran. Leaflets entitled ‘Ten Reasons to Come Back to the Catholic Church’ and ‘Why Catholicism’ and on Baptism, as well as audio CD’s on ‘An Invitation to Consider the Catholic Faith’, ‘The Mass’, ‘Marriage and the Eucharist’, ‘Confession’, and ‘The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet’ were left as appropriate to the conversation we had with those visited.

On returning, the parish provided all team members a sumptuous lunch buffet, and then we shared our stories from the visits in a session where every single visitor gave a report.

The summary for the day shows that we called at 1,168 homes and spoke with 641 persons in 531 of those homes. We met 236 Catholic families of whom 95 were not attending, 163 families of other faiths, and 132 families with no church or unknown church affiliation. We gave out 153 Miraculous Medals and 55 Rosaries. A total of 71 homes were identified for follow-up visits in the months to come. Among these were 29 inactive Catholic families, 11 potential converts, 12 children needing Baptism, 3 children needing Confirmation, 1 adult needing Baptism, 2 marriages to be regularized, 5 families to be registered, 1 person needing Anointing of the Sick, 1 child for pre-school, and 2 for active membership and 1 for auxiliary membership in the Legion of Mary.

Don Taggart
May 30, 2013