



Holy Family Catholic Church
4401 Highcrest Rd.
Rockford, IL 61107

Ph: 815-398-4280
Fax: 815-398-4287
<http://holyfamilyrockford.org>

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Brother Pastors:

As a fellow pastor within the Rockford Diocese I wanted to share with you the good work that *Evangelical Catholic* is doing to help re-orient *Holy Family Church and School* from a maintenance to a mission mode.

We have had a formal relationship with *EC* for about two years. I spoke with Fr. Matt McMorrow prior to signing the contract. He was the only pastor that has brought them into the diocese. And as of now, I'm the only other one that has done so. He can certainly speak for himself, but from my standpoint, I can see the impact they have had in training missionary disciples at Holy Family.

About the time we hired them, we created a "pathway to discipleship" that we expect everyone in the parish to be on. I told the parishioners, and repeat from time to time, that we Catholics do not do the first and fourth steps of the pathway very well. The first step involves programs that are what we call "entrance ramps." These are light programs that introduce (or re-introduce for the fallen away Catholic) elements of the faith that will not overwhelm them. *Alpha* or the *Chosen* series are examples we are currently employing for that first step.

The last step on the pathway, which Catholics also are poor at doing, is evangelization. That's where *Evangelical Catholic* comes in. I think Matt accurately described the twelve week training sessions *EC* does as a "mini seminary." The graduates get a well-rounded formation in the areas that get addressed in a seminary education. What I heard from some of the graduates was things like, "I never knew I could pray like that," or "now I know how to form a small group of my neighbors and talk about the faith."

I do not want to oversell what can be done. Because each graduate gets one on one mentorship, you may be only training 20 to 30 parishioners a year. But over time, if you stick with the program long enough, you'll be begin to see it bear fruit.

I can only give you a glimpse of what I have experienced. Don't hesitate to contact me and we can go into greater detail over the benefits of *Evangelical Catholic*.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Fr. Phillip Kaim
Pastor
Holy Family Church

Building Community ~ Making Disciples