

EVANGELIZATION



Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son to bring the Good News of salvation into the world. Help us to share the Good News of the death and resurrection of your Son with others, so that we may share in his Kingdom in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Matthew 10:5-14*

In this Gospel, Jesus sends the disciples to evangelize and share the Good News with others. Jesus calls each of us to share the Gospel in our own ways with others in order to build up the Kingdom of God and share the joy that we have received from knowing Jesus with others.

What is evangelization?

- Evangelization is derived from the Greek word that means to bring or to announce the Good News.
- To evangelize means to testify and proclaim the mystery of God's salvation in Jesus Christ.
- Evangelization involves more than bringing the Gospel to people who have never heard the Good News before. It requires bringing Christians to a deeper awareness of Christ touching their lives.

How is evangelization rooted in our baptismal call?

- Every Christian, by virtue of baptism, is called to collaborate with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit in spreading the Good News.
- To evangelize, to make disciples, is the privilege and duty of every Catholic.
- Pope Paul VI has emphatically stated, "Without the Holy Spirit, evangelization simply cannot occur." The Holy Spirit, the first gift of the Risen Christ to His people (John 20:22), gives us both the ability to receive the Gospel of Jesus, and in response, to proclaim it.

Incarnating THE **KERYGMA** EVANGELIZATION

What is the goal of evangelization?

- The goal of Catholic evangelization is to invite a person to believe in Jesus Christ; to enfold the believer in the sacramental, communal life of the Church; and then to enable inspire, and support a lifetime of full discipleship.
- We believe that Jesus is Savior and redeemer of humankind. By our faith in Jesus Christ and our devotion to Him, we transform the world.
- As his disciples, we share that conviction with others by living out His command to love others as ourselves and to gather all into His Body, the Church.

What is Catholic evangelization?

- Catholic evangelization is led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the primary agent of evangelization and moves us toward spiritual transformation as individual disciples as a Church. The Holy Spirit is at work in the evangelizer and in the heart of the person who is being evangelized.
- Catholic evangelization is rooted in Jesus Christ and His Church. There is a profound link between Christ, the Church, and evangelization. We cannot claim to love, listen to, and belong to Christ without the Church.
- Catholic evangelization is directed toward the Kingdom of God. Sharing one's faith is a way to facilitate the fulfillment of God's will "on earth as it is in heaven." The evangelizing Catholic fully accepts this activity as part of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Catholic evangelization involves sharing in the Eucharist. The ultimate proclamation of God's Word is carried out in the Eucharist, the source and summit of our salvation. Catholics who evangelize share in the Eucharist to grow in their faith and also invite other Catholics to do so.
- Catholic evangelization calls people to a lifelong journey to God. Far from being a one-for-all experience, evangelization is believed by Catholics to be a continuous process of conversion. The best of evangelizers allow themselves to be converted and evangelized again and again and in that way grow in holiness.
- Catholic evangelization invites all church members to be stewards of faith. Clergy, religious, and laity are called to use their time, talent, and treasure to spread the Good News – to become a living sacrifice which is acceptable and pleasing to the Lord.
- Catholic evangelization directs the mission of all Church endeavors. Every ministry, project, and effort can and should be evangelizing in its vision, scope, and activity.

EVANGELIZATION



- Catholic evangelization offers a clear priority in all times and seasons. In the midst of great confusion about what priorities must be served in order to fulfill the highest good, the duty to evangelize takes precedence.
- Catholic evangelization is optimistic and realistic. The Catholic vision sees the world as basically good, but wounded by sin. Our efforts to transform this world are measured, pragmatic, and consistent and wedded to an appreciation of the time and effort it takes to change the real world.
- Catholic evangelization is rooted in everyday life. Evangelizing and being evangelized take place in the midst of ordinary human situations where God encounters His people in the mundane and in the ordinary. Evangelizing encounters are woven into the life of the family. The Church also finds opportunities in and among the larger network of human associations.

What are some practical steps to evangelize?

- **Pray:** Ask God to whom you should reach out. When we ask God for opportunities to witness to our faith we have the courage to do so.
- **Know:** Take steps to know the persons in need of evangelization that God brings into your life.
- **Listen:** Hear the people God brings into your life. Your attentiveness can bring many possibilities to share your own faith.
- **Invite:** Bring others to missions or other spiritual programs. Introduce them to your priests and other leaders.
- **Visit:** Volunteer to visit hospitals, shut-ins, nursing homes, and prisons. These people need your encouragement.