

EVANGELIZATION



The two greatest commandments, love of God and love of neighbor (Matt 22:36-40), both impel us to evangelize. Evangelization is a requirement of love.

1. We evangelize for the glory of God

First, and most importantly, we must evangelize out of a sincere love for God and a desire to be obedient to his will, "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4). When Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, he entrusted to his disciples this mission:

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 commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. - Matthew 28:19-20

As modern day disciples of Jesus Christ, these words are also addressed to us. When we evangelize, we glorify God by humbly and faithfully fulfilling his command.

2. We evangelize to save the souls of others

Second, love for our neighbors also impels us to evangelize. Authentic love is not just a passion or emotion. "Love is to will the good of another." If we truly love others, we desire their good, and especially their ultimate good, which is eternal life with God in heaven. And this ultimate good of eternal life and supernatural happiness can only be obtained by faith in Jesus Christ...

[Read the rest of the Sections IV–VII of the Common Vision for Evangelization online.](#)

A COMMON VISION FOR EVANGELIZATION

PRAYING TO DISCERN GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR PARISH

"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). Our efforts to evangelize are only going to be successful if we rely totally on the power of prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To that end, in this and the next issue of the GMD newsletter, you will receive a "homework" assignment to pray in a specific way that may be new for many of us (more detailed instructions are on page 2). Our hope is that these exercises in prayerful discernment will be a helpful preparation for the fall when you will be asked to draft a written parish plan for Phase 2 (due by Thanksgiving).

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS KIND OF PRAYER AND DISCERNMENT:

Read these articles from Fr. John Riccardo:
[Welcome to the Trailer](#) + [God is the Architect](#)

Or listen to these podcasts from the ACTS XXIX Team:
[Do we really believe God speaks?](#) + [How do we know the Holy Spirit is guiding us?](#)

PRAYING ABOUT “THE MISSION FIELD”

Before the next meeting with your staff or team, personally commit to 30 - 60 minutes in prayer around these three questions:

- Who is disengaged or on the margins of our parish communities?
- What is currently happening in our parish that has great evangelizing potential?
- How do we invite back to Mass those we haven't seen since early 2020?

Ask God to answer these questions. Most likely he won't do so audibly, but pay attention to anything that he might place on your heart or in your mind.

When you get together again share with each other what you think you may have heard in prayer. Have someone on the team take thorough notes during this time of sharing.

YEARLY FORMATION NEWSLETTER TOPICS

MAY 2021

The Mission

JUNE 2021

Missionary Discipleship

JULY 2021

Evangelization

AUGUST 2021

How to Evangelize

SEPTEMBER 2021

Jesus + The Story | Faith

OCTOBER 2021

Daily Prayer | Hope

NOVEMBER 2021

Holy Mass | Charity

DECEMBER 2021

Reclaiming Sunday | Justice

JANUARY 2022

Monthly Confession | Humility

FEBRUARY 2022

Self-Denial | Moderation

MARCH 2022

Praying with Scripture | Wisdom

APRIL 2022

Missionary Discipleship | Courage

NOT A COMMITTEE MEETING

A note for parish staff and evangelization teams: **Think outside the box. Meet in homes. Share meals or drinks together. Discuss your faith, your parish, and what God is saying to you in prayer.**