

Evangelization 101.7

FREE FROM FEAR AND PRESSURE

Evangelization is more of an art, like the art of friendship, than a science.
The environment needs to be relaxed like a living room, not a classroom
The exchange is more a conversation between friends, not a lecture.

Evangelization is about Jesus wanting to enter into a friendship with a sinner through a person who already has a friendship with Jesus.

One must be aware that fear and pressure may try to enter into the exchange.
Jesus did not allow himself to be motivated by fear or pressure
Evangelization does not happen within fear or pressure ... it is an invitation from the heart.
We need to do our best to not follow fear and pressure within ourselves.
Evangelization feels awkward in the beginning, mostly because of our own insecurity, but we should still try and it will improve with practice.

A few guidelines to help reduce fear and pressure:

1. Recognize the environment - Most effective evangelization takes place one-on-one in a friendly environment. Very rarely does it take place in a debate environment. We're not there to win the mind, but to win the heart in friendship.
2. You don't have to know all the answers. It's OK to say, "I don't know, but I'll find out."
3. Remember... you are offering something very good. If we see our faith as a treasure, then the invitation will come from the same place from which we offer a gift.
4. Accept that some people may decline your invitation.

Next time: ACTION

References: "Enflame Our Hearts, Homes, Community" from Convocation Delegate Handbook 2020, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas
"Integrated Evangelization: How to Facilitate the Encounter with Christ" by Msgr. Thomas J. Richter