

HOW TO EVANGELIZE



VIII. How Should We Evangelize?

The answer is quite simple: be holy and talk to people about Jesus.

Evangelization consists in proclaiming Jesus Christ risen from the dead "by word and the testimony of life." The two keys to evangelization, therefore, are these: to become holy and to talk to people about Jesus. It is a simple formula but not an easy one. For most of us, growth in holiness is a long, slow work-in-progress. And it can often be very difficult to talk to people about Jesus, especially when we are afraid that our words will not be well received by the other. But "perfect love casts out fear," as St. John teaches us (1 John 4:18). And we pray in the Psalms: "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life: of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps 27:1). Therefore, we should take comfort and heed the words of our Lord, who says to his disciples: "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent" (Acts 27:24).

[Read the rest of the Sections VIII-X 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 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 HOLY HABITS

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

How does the Lord want the faithful in your parish to enter more deeply into the call to holiness in the following ways?

- Encountering Jesus
- Commitment to daily prayer
- Making Sunday holy
- Embracing regular mortification and sacrifice
- Making regular Confessions

How will you teach or encourage these practices in your school, in your programs, in your preaching, and in the general life of your parish?

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

Our Baptismal Call | Courage

NOVEMBER 2021

Holy Mass | Charity

DECEMBER 2021

Reclaiming Sunday | Piety

JANUARY 2022

Daily Prayer | Hope

FEBRUARY 2022

Praying with Scripture | Wisdom

MARCH 2022

Self-Denial | Moderation

APRIL 2022

Monthly Confession | Humility

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.**