

What is Evangelization?

Evangelization is the sharing of the Good News. And the Good News is . . . That Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God, who became man by the will of God the Father, died and rose again to save us from our sin, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Who's job is it to Evangelize?

Evangelization is *everyone's* work! We've all been chosen so there is no getting out of the job! We are the Church.

"As my Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." John 15:16

"...the Church exists to evangelize." Pope Paul VI - On Evangelization in the Modern World Evangelii Nuntiandi

"No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples." John Paul II - Mission of the Redeemer

Why are we called to Evangelize?

because Jesus said so . . . !

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 1Corinthians 3:9

. . .And because if we do not speak of the Good News there may be someone who never hears it. And Pope Paul VI reminded us that we may not be on the way to Heaven if we are doing nothing to take others along with us. We do want to go to Heaven! So let's get out and spread the Good News! In fact when we have good news to share we have trouble containing ourselves! How can we *not* share the Good News of Jesus!

Evangelization is a privilege – a joy-filled job!

We do not have to stand on a street corner or shout from a rooftop – we simply need to allow Jesus to work through us in our everyday lives – at home, at work, in the line at the grocery store. Often the best way to witness is through our actions rather than our words as St. Francis reminds us:

"Preach the Gospel always, use words when necessary"

And Mother Teresa tells us:

*"Just allow people to see Jesus in you
to see how you lead a pure life
to see how you deal with your family.
to see how much peace there is in your family.
Then you can look straight into their eyes and say,
"This is the way."*

How Do We Evangelize ?

It's not as scary as it sounds!!

Evangelization must always have its roots in prayer. We cannot share what we do not have. In order to know Jesus and speak about our hope in the Resurrection we have to nurture our own faith using the tools we have been given. Jesus promised He would not abandon us.

"And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you."

John 14:16-18

The Tools we have been given to live a life of faith and to share the Good News are:

The Holy Spirit

The Word of God in Scripture

The Sacraments – especially the Eucharist and Confession

Prayer

People will want what we have if we are living out the Gospel faithfully – peace and joy radiate! When people ask the reason for our peace and hope we can confidently tell them that it is in Jesus that we find our hope and joy and peace. **Don't Preach!** Simply be a Witness to the way God works in your life!

Practical Pointers for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ:

- **PRAY!**
- Continue to **study Scripture** and the **teachings of our Catholic Faith (Catechism)**
- **Ask the Lord for opportunities** to witness and evangelize
- Ask the Lord for HIS courage, joy, wisdom, words, sensitivity and gentleness and above all **humility!**
- Draw people with **genuine friendliness and warmth** – be a friend
- **Be Christ** to each person you meet
- **Share the good that God has done for you** – how He has gotten you through difficult times and evident in the joyful times
- **Offer to pray for people** – and then do it! Then check in with them to see how they are doing

Above all remember that evangelization is God's work! It is not about us– it is not to be seen or chalked up as an accomplishment on our part! We are just the tools that He works through. So it is important to study, pray and prepare ourselves so that He can use us and then we need to allow HIM to WORK!