

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 have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.
Matthew 28:19



What is evangelization?

“This evangelization, that is, this announcing of Christ by a living testimony as well as by the spoken word, takes on a specific quality and a special force in that it is carried out in the ordinary surroundings of the world” *Lumen gentium: Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, Pope Paul VI, November 21, 1964, 35.

Making present and announcing Jesus Christ and the saving events of his life, death, and resurrection as the revelation of God’s love in the power of the Holy Spirit. A rich, dynamic, and complex process that is the “grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. The Church exists in order to evangelize” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14).

“bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself” *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1992/2002, 10.



Modes of Evangelization

“Evangelization has its ultimate aim in the fulfillment of human life” *Directory for Catechesis* (2020), 30.

From *Go and Make Disciples*

In the life of the Church

“Through the ordinary patterns of our Catholic life, the Holy Spirit brings about conversion and a new life in Christ. [...] there are two elements at work: witness, which is the simple living of the faith; and sharing, which is spreading the Good News of Jesus in an explicit way.”

In sharing the Gospel with others

“The Holy Spirit also evangelizes through our attempts to reach those who have given up the practice of their Catholic faith for one reason or another and those who have no family of faith. [...] we want to help them see that, however they feel about the Church, we want to talk with them, share with them, and accept them as brothers and sisters. Every Catholic can be a minister of welcome, reconciliation, and understanding to those who have stopped practicing the faith.”

New Evangelization

dynamism of continual renewal through the action of the Holy Spirit

“The Holy Spirit is the soul of the evangelizing Church. For this reason the call for a new evangelization (cf *Evangelii nuntiandi* 2) has less to do with the dimension of time as with making all moments of the process of evangelization ever more open to the renewing action of the Spirit of the Risen One. ... “there is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last details, and instead letting him enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever he wills. The Holy Spirit knows well what is needed in every time and place” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 280)” *Directory for Catechesis*, 39.

Witness is first means of evangelization

“Evangelization is more than just simple doctrinal and moral transmission. It is, first and foremost, witness – one cannot evangelize without witness – witness of the personal encounter with Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word in which salvation is fulfilled. An indispensable witness because, firstly, the world ‘is calling for evangelizers to speak to it of a God whom the evangelists themselves should know and be familiar with’ (EN, 76). It is not to transmit an ideology or a ‘doctrine’ on God, no. **It is to transmit God who is living in me**”
Pope Francis, March 22, 2023



Methods of Evangelization

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope” 1 Peter 3:15

“For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new” *Evangelii nuntiandi*, 18.

“The work of evangelization presupposes in the evangelizer an ever-increasing love for those whom he is evangelizing” *Evangelii nuntiandi*, 79.

“Word and silence: learning to communicate is learning to listen and contemplate as well as speak. This is especially important for those engaged in the task of evangelization: both silence and word are essential elements, integral to the Church’s work of communication for the sake of a renewed proclamation of Christ in today’s world” Pope Benedict XVI, [Message for 46th World Communications Day](#), May 20, 2012.

Factors that influence effectiveness of various methods include:

- Situation of the person(s) who will potentially receive the Gospel as “Good News”
- Setting
- Relationship of evangelizer to the person(s) to whom the Good News is being shared,
- Skills and knowledge the skills of the evangelizer

Specific Approaches

Directory for Catechesis, 31-54

- “Evangelization is an ecclesial process, inspired and supported by the Holy Spirit, through which the Gospel is proclaimed and spread throughout the world...”
- Catechesis – essential moment in the process of evangelization

Go and Make Disciples

- Strategies to continue to hear the Good News at ever-deeper levels (89-103)
- Strategies invite effectively every person to come to know the Good News of Jesus proclaimed by the Catholic Church (104-116)
- Strategies to transform society in Christ by supporting those cultural elements in our land that reflect Catholic values and challenging those that reject it (117-127)



Living as Missionary Disciples: A Resource for Evangelization pp 9-19

Dependent on the Holy Spirit

1. Encounter
2. Accompany
3. Community
4. Send

Primary Sources in addition to the Bible and liturgical texts

listed in chronological order

Lumen gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Pope Paul VI, November 21, 1964, accessed March 27, 2023 from

https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

Evangelii nuntiandi: Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelization in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI, Dec 8, 1975, accessed March 20, 2023 from https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi.html

Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1992/2002, accessed March 20, 2023 from <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/evangelization/go-and-make-disciples/go-and-make-disciples-a-national-plan-and-strategy-for-catholic-evangelization-in-the-united-states>

Evangelii Gaudium : Apostolic Exhortation on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World, Pope Francis, November 24, 2013; accessed March 27, 2023 from https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html

Directory for Catechesis, Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, USCCB, July 2020

Online Leader's Guide; accessed March 27, 2023:

https://www.usccb.org/resources/Leaders%20Guide_DFC.pdf



Sampling of Other Helpful Resources

Living as Missionary Disciples: A Resource for Evangelization, Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2017 accessed March 27, 2023 from <https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/living-as-missionary-disciples/files/assets/basic-html/page-I.html#>

Catechesis “The passion for evangelization: the apostolic zeal of the believer 8. The first way of evangelization: witness” March 22, 2023 General Audience, Pope Francis, accessed March 23, 2023 from <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2023/documents/20230322-udienza-generale.html>

Diocese of Portland

- “Back to Mass” Project Phase 2 Resource Packet https://portlanddiocese.org/sites/default/files/files/Back_To_Mass_PhaseTwo_Parish_Resources.pdf
- Eucharistic Revival <https://portlanddiocese.org/Eucharist>

