

**PRACTICAL WAYS
TO BECOME AN
EVANGELIZING
PARISH**

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THE EVANGELIST'S PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit!

Set our hearts on fire with zeal for the Gospel, love for all people, and the desire for their salvation.

Inspire us that we might proclaim the Gospel persuasively and with charity, giving witness with out words and lives.

Give us courage in proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and the truth, beauty and goodness of our Catholic Faith.

We beg you also to open the hearts of all people, helping them to know Your love and Your call to the fullness of life in Your Church.

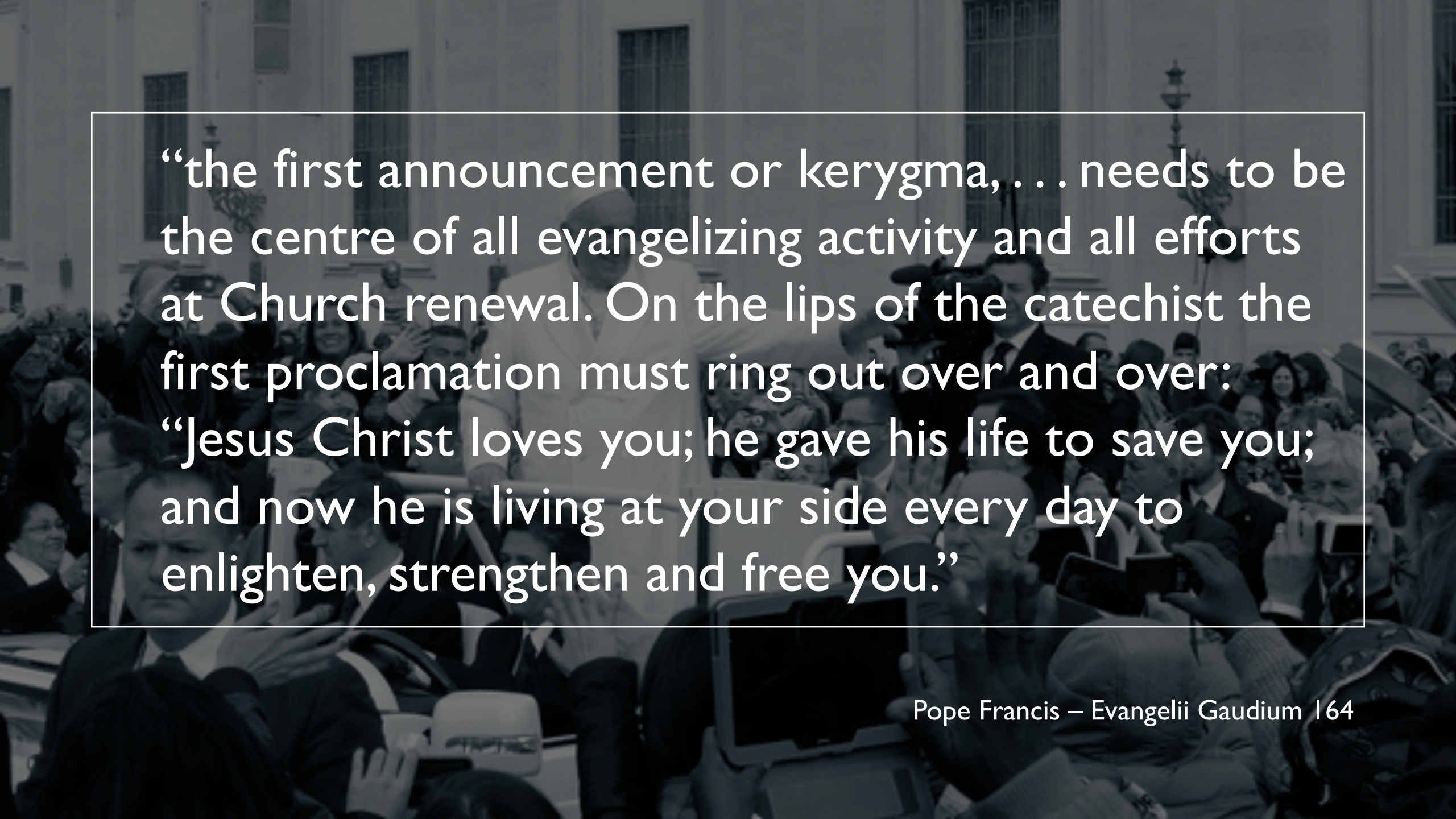
Through our holy patrons, Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Paul, we ask these graces for all Catholic evangelists and we make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Written by Father Charlie Cox

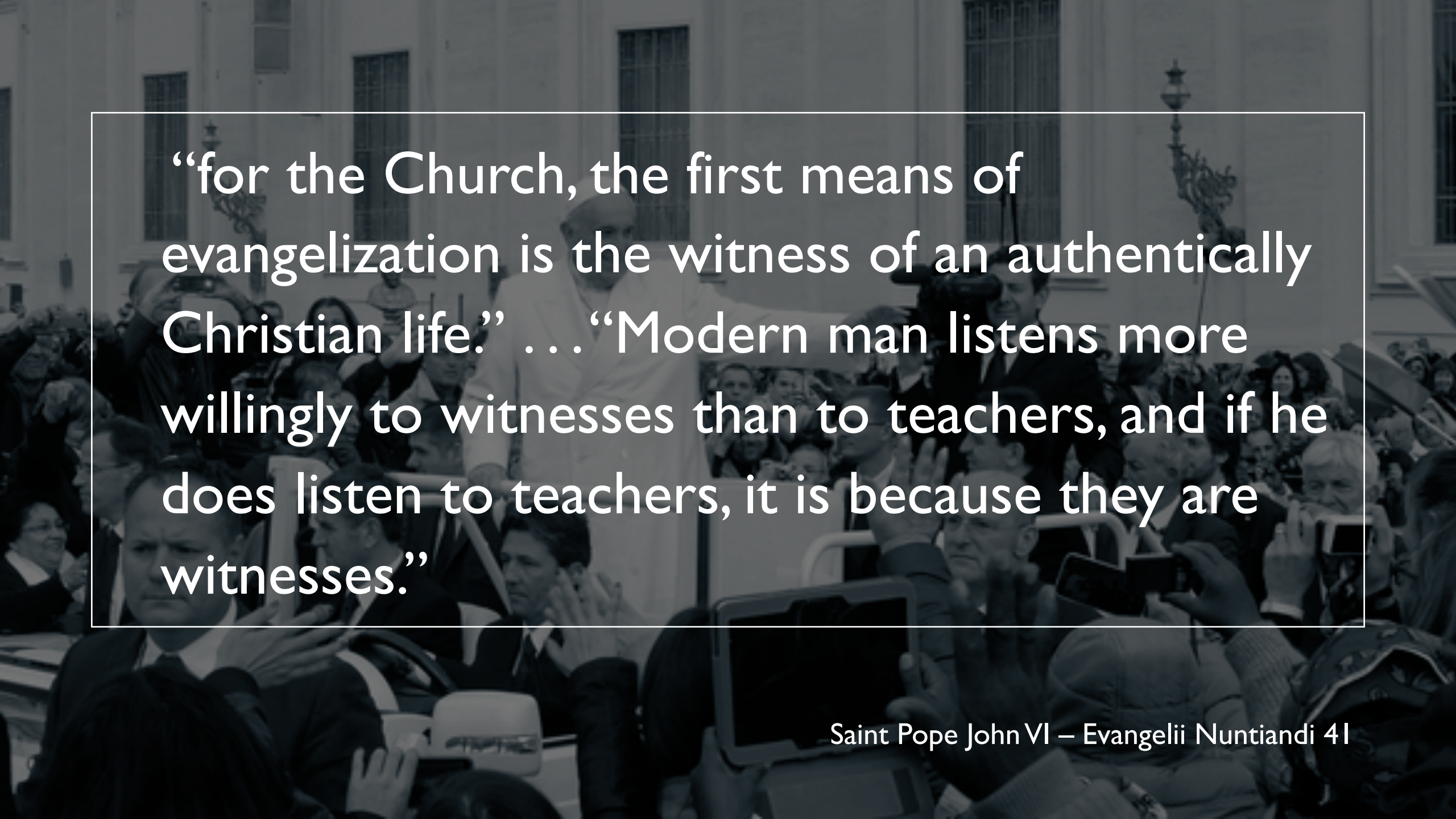
Basic Evangelization Training, St. Paul School of Evangelization

WHAT IS EVANGELIZATION

- The work of the Holy Spirit
- To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ
 - in Word (Kerygma)
 - In Action (the joy of living God's love)



“the first announcement or kerygma, . . . needs to be the centre of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal. On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”



“for the Church, the first means of evangelization is the witness of an authentically Christian life.” ... “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”



THIS IS A VIDEO

NO, REALLY, WELL, MAYBE

WHAT IS AN EVANGELIZING COMMUNITY

Evangelii Gaudium 24:

- Community of Intentional Disciples
- Knows the Lord has taken the initiative
- Goes out to others
- Has an endless desire to show mercy
- Gets involved in peoples daily lives
- Is familiar with patient expectation and apostolic endurance
- Filled with Joy, it knows how to rejoice always

OVERVIEW

- I'm not the expert
- These are the experts
- What they agree upon
- A framework that you can start with
- Practical tips
- Resources
- Take aways





THE EXPERTS

AND WHAT DO THEY AGREE UPON

- Sherry Weddell – Catherine of Siena Institute
 - Called & Gifted; Forming Intentional Disciples, Fruitful Discipleship
- St. Paul Evangelization Institute
 - St. Paul Street Evangelization, St. Paul School of Evangelization, Basic Evangelization Training, Entertaining Angels
- Pope Francis: The Joy of the Gospel
- Renewal Ministries: <http://www.renewalministries.net/>
 - Pete Burak: Director i.d.9:16
- Acts XXIX: <https://actsxxix.org>
 - Father John Riccardo
- Craig Pohl: Director of New Evangelization Diocese of Lansing
- Patrick Lencioni: the Advantage
- Fr. James Mallon: Divine Renovation
- Fr. Michael White: Rebuilt
- Fr. Andrew Kemberling: Making Stewardship a Way of Life

COMMON THEMES

- There is no plan, no silver bullet
 - God has a blueprint for every parish – ask him to share it with you – Mary Guilfoyle, Acts XXIX
 - Every parish has a part in God’s work, what does he need you to uniquely do? – Sherry Weddell
- Need to have a vision
 - Need leadership from the Pastor.
 - “All your success is dependent on Spirit-filled leadership” – Pete Burak
 - Missional leadership happens with the Pastors – Mary Guilfoyle, Acts XXIX
 - A culture of evangelization has to come top down
- Need a highly functional staff
 - Moving from a staff to a team to a family – Acts XXIX
 - Ministries should look like extended families on mission – Pete Burak
- Create an intentional plan for your parish

COMMON THEMES

- Inspire and educate your intentional disciples
 - Gather the coals and breath on them – Craig Pohl
- Ask people to step onto the path
- Make more disciples
- Vital Components:
 - Proclaim the Kerygma
 - Create opportunities for people at all stages of discipleship
 - Small groups are essential
 - Focus on worship and sacraments
 - Focus on welcome
 - Simplify activities and distraction that don't support the vision

EVANGELIZATION IS ACCOMPLISHED BY DISCIPLES

- Evangelists are intentional missionary disciples
- Parishes need to be in the business of making disciples
- People become disciples through a process
- The process takes patience, persistence and trust
- This requires a parish on mission
 - Vision; Leadership; Staff; Lay leaders; People in the pews
- That usually takes a change in the culture of a parish

DISCIPLESHIP THRESHOLDS

- **Initial Trust**

- Pre-evangelization stage
- A positive association with Jesus, God, the church or a Christian.

- **Curiosity**

- Pre-evangelization stage
- Initial proclamation stage
- Intrigued or desiring to know more

- **Openness**

- Pre-evangelization stage
- Initial proclamation stage
- Open to the possibility of personal change

- **Seeking**

- Initial proclamation stage
- Catechesis stage
- Moved to actively seeking to know God
- Asking, on a quest, can I commit?

- **Intentional Discipleship**

- Catechesis stage
- A conscious decision to follow Jesus in the midst of His Church
- Re-ordering one life accordingly

- **Apostolate**

- Actively engaging in evangelization

A FRAMEWORK



EXPERT TIPS

- Sherry Weddell: Forming Intentional Disciples
 1. **Pray:** Lay the spiritual foundation through organized sustained intercessory prayer
 2. **Break the silence** - talk openly about the possibility of a relationship with God. Talk about your relationship with God.
 3. **Do Tell:** The Great Story of Jesus: Preach the Kerygma.
 4. **Encountering Jesus in His Church:** Offer multiple overlapping opportunities for baptized and non baptized people to personally encounter Jesus in the midst of the church
 5. **Expect conversion** - plan for conversion

EXPERT TIPS

- Modified from a talk by Pete Burak: i.d.9:16 during “The Millennial Conference”
 1. **Do a Budget Audit:** You value what you budget for
 1. Space, time, dollars, people/staff
 2. **Every Leader should be an Evangelist:** Looking for young adults, looking for the lost
 3. **Embrace Failure:** The early disciples died for evangelizing. You will be rejected. It's OK.
 4. **Start with low hanging fruit:** the Airport test
 5. **What happens if it works?**
 6. **Do ministries look like extended families on mission?**
 7. **Serve people:** social justice brings people in
 8. **Communicate where people are listening**
 9. **Use simple questions:** Lean, Smile, Ask: “That’s interesting. Tell me why you think that?”
 10. **Lean in:** An evangelizing community gets involved in peoples lives

EXPERT TIPS

Craig Pohl: Director of New Evangelization, Diocese of Lansing

1. The parish must find a way of becoming a community of communities.
 1. Parishes are so big that it's difficult for people to form new and meaningful Christian relationships unless structures are put into place by the pastoral team for frequently bringing people together in large and small groups. Connect Groups and 4-6 person discipleship groups
2. The parish also needs to have a mode of presenting the basic Gospel message and then giving people a prayerful environment to respond to it. In Lansing we call these encounter opportunities, but most people will recognize programs like Alpha, Cursillo, Life in the Spirit etc.
3. Creating a culture of personal Bible reading, Bible studies in both large and small group format, praying with Scripture etc. will contribute to an increase in good discernment and missionary zeal.
4. Grace is the invisible power that upholds and calls forth ALL ministry in our Church. Therefore every parish should have an intercessory team/ministry that prays over all the events and initiatives at the parish and organizes this type of prayer for the whole parish to participate in.
5. Parishes in the DoL are experiencing success by holding facilitating nights of healing by the JPII Healing Center, Unbound, and Encounter Ministries.
6. We are also seeing great success from pastors and their teams engaging the Amazing Parish and Divine Renovation

EXPERT TIPS

USCCB Article: Four Keys to *Train* for Parish Outreach to the Unaffiliated

September 25, 2019; Adam Jenke, Saint Paul Evangelization Institute; Google: “USCCB Stay With Us”

- 1. Training in organizational health:** Parishes need to become healthy organizations
- 2. Get Training Help:**
 1. We decided as a team to end some programs and efforts that served to distract us
 2. Staff will want to dedicate time to creating a discipleship road map
 3. Training in holiness through prayer and formation, better training for catechists, training in prayer, discernment, and spiritual growth
- 3. Training in relational ministry:** Moving from program centered to relationship centered
- 4. Training in the bold proclamation of the Gospel:**

**SO WHAT CAN
YOU DO?**

WHERE TO START

- A time of Prayer – no. really.
 - Ask for the blueprint
- Leadership and Vision
 - Staff, Team, Family: Acts XXIX; Patrick Lencioni; Catholic Leadership Institute
- Evaluate where you are now
 - Audit your programs, audit your time, audit your budget, audit the culture
- Map what you are already doing related to the thresholds of discipleship
- Create your initial plan:
 - What is missing
 - Get the Parish on Mission
- Gather the Coals and Fan the Fire
 - Training and inspiring your Intentional Disciples
- Go back to the Common Themes and Expert Tips



RESOURCES

BOOKS | PROGRAMS | TRAINING

BOOKS

- *Sherry Weddell: Forming Intentional Disciples*
- *Pope Francis: The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium*
- *Fr. James Mallon: Divine Revelation*
- Pope Paul VI: Announcing the Good News: Evangelii Nuntiandi
- Patrick Lencioni: The Advantage
- Fr. Michael White: Rebuilt
- Fr. Andrew Kemberling: Making Stewardship a Way of Life

PROGRAMS – PARTNERS

- Catherine of Siena Institute: Called & Gifted; FID: www.siena.org
- Alpha in a Catholic Context: www.alphausa.org/catholic
- St. Paul Evangelization Institute: St. Paul Street Evangelization:
- Renewal Ministries: renewalministries.net
- i.d.9:16: Young Adult Evangelization: www.id916.com
- ACTS XXIX: www.actsxxix.org
- Catholic Leadership Institute: catholicleaders.org
- Paradisus Dei: TMIY; Family Apostolate: paradisusdei.org
- Word on Fire: Catholicism Series and others
- Dynamic Catholic: Catechesis; Sacramental Preparation Materials
- Augustine Institute: FORMED.org

TRAINING – CONFERENCES

- Basic Evangelization Training: Saint Paul School of Evangelization:
- Entertaining Angels: The Catholic Hospitality Training Institute
- The Amazing Parish Conference
- The Millennial Church Conference: i.d:9:16
- The International Stewardship Conference:
 - 2019: Missionary Disciples: Stewards of the Church
 - Next week in Chicago

A FRAMEWORK

- Initial Trust
 - Saint Paul Street Evangelization
 - Alpha
 - Intentional Welcome
- Curiosity
 - Preach the Kerygma
 - Entertaining Angels Hospitality
 - Catholicism Series
 - Small Groups
 - Ask lots of questions
- Openness
 - Preach the Kerygma
 - Cursillo
 - Life in the Spirit
 - Healing Ministries
- Seeking
 - RCIA
 - FORMED.org
 - Small Groups
 - TMIY - Blessed is She
 - Bible Studies
 - Called and Gifted
 - Parish Missions
- Intentional Disciple
 - Basic Evangelization Training
 - Entertaining Angels Hospitality training
 - Service
 - Leading small groups
 - Retreats

EXAMPLES & IDEAS

- Women of Our Lady – First Friday Rosary
 - Gather families in their homes
 - Share a meal
 - Pray the rosary
 - Create community
- St. Thomas: Marian Consecration Outreach
 - Knights Immaculata
 - Daughter Immaculata
- St Mary Visitation, Byron Center
 - Community Storefront in the center of Dorr
- Hand out missals
 - with a how-to for Mass
- Mobile Parish Library
 - at community events
- Start a street evangelization team
- Start an i.d.9:16 chapter

A FRAMEWORK



TAKE AWAYS

- A time of prayer – trust in the Holy Spirit
- Read some good books
- An honest assessment of Vision and Leadership
- You cannot give what you do not have
- A time of formation
- Do you need to reach out for help?
- Who are your Intentional Disciples?
- How can you gather the coals and fan the flames?

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