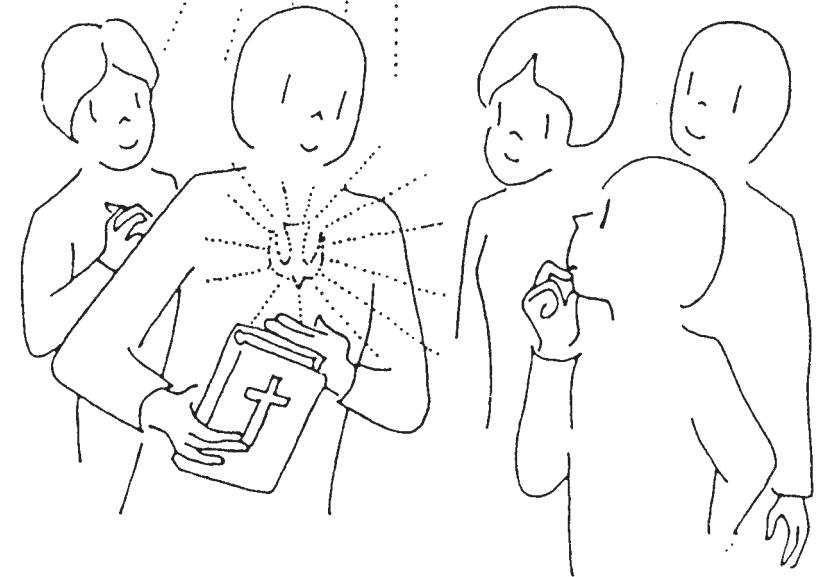




What every Catholic should know
ABOUT
EVANGELIZATION



PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

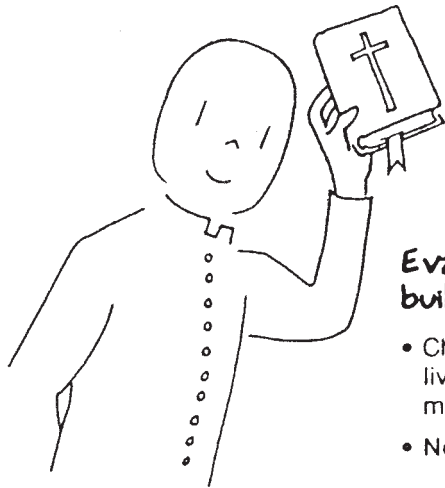
For printing just one copy for personal use, print out the odd-numbered pages onto A4 paper in landscape format. You can then print the even-numbered pages onto the back side of the first pages you printed. (Be careful to get the pages in the correct order though.) Then assemble the pages in the correct order and fold down the middle to produce an A5-size booklet.

For printing a large number of copies for distribution in a parish or school, print this pdf publication from your computer onto single-sided A4 paper. Use these "master sheets" to photocopy in a similar way to what was described above.

What is
EVANGELIZATION
?

IT'S SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS

That means communicating
to family, friends and neighbors
the joyful news that because
God loves us, we are saved
and called to eternal life.



**Evangelization is God's way of
building His Kingdom on earth.**

- Christ started that work, changing the lives of many who listened to His message.
- Now His followers must continue the task.



So--

We are called to be signs
and servants of the Kingdom.
Our words and deeds can

BRING OTHERS TO GOD

Through evangelization,
all Catholics can

- **REAFFIRM** their faith
in Christ
- **REACH OUT** to share
the Gospel
- **PROCLAIM** God's
love for all
people.



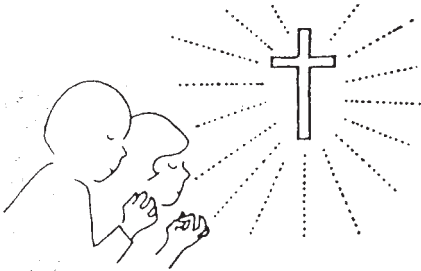
**Be the messenger
who brings the
GOOD NEWS!**

PREPARATION is indispensable

and will make us more convincing evangelists. We can get ready through --

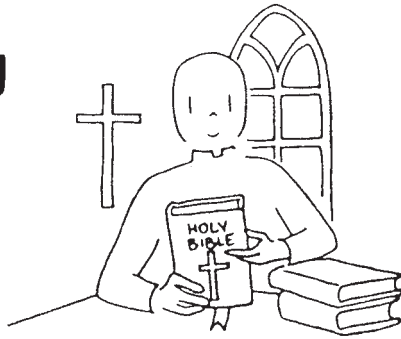
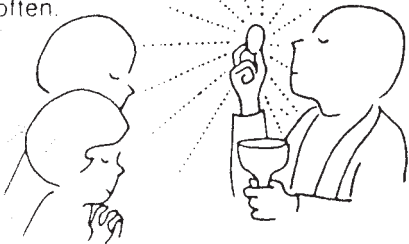
PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Daily prayer and meditation can help us communicate with God, know His will and continually renew ourselves in the Christian life.



WORSHIP

Church services strengthen us for the task of evangelization. We should all participate in liturgy during Mass regularly, listen closely to and reflect on the Gospel reading, and celebrate the Sacraments often.



STUDY

To proclaim the Gospel, we must know it. Carefully study the Bible and reflect on what it means to us. Know Church teachings, too.

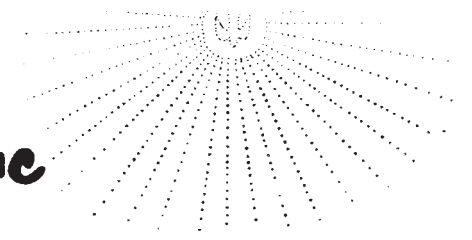


PARISH FELLOWSHIP

We should not work alone in evangelization efforts. Parish members should help each other by sharing prayer, study and discussion. Each should take part in planning and carrying out official parish programs.



Evangelization is the **RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY CATHOLIC**



CHRIST COMMANDED:

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation."

(Mark 16:15)

POPE PAUL VI

reinforced that command during the Second Vatican Council. In 1975, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (meaning, "the Gospels must be proclaimed"), he declared that evangelization is a priority mission of the 20th-century Church and of each Church member. It is the essential mission of the Church for all times.



PEOPLE TODAY

need the Gospel more than ever.

- The Gospel can dispel their doubts, fears, anxieties.
- It can transform selfish ways of life and revive consciences.
- It can bring meaning to empty lives.
- It can help bring peace to a materialistic, crisis-filled world.

It's up to each of us to bring the Gospel to the world!

CHRIST WAS THE ORIGINAL EVANGELIST

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."
(MATTHEW 28:19)



His ministry marked the beginning of the Church. He traveled throughout Israel, teaching about the Kingdom of God and how to gain salvation. Christ proclaimed His message through --

HIS WORDS

They were simple and authoritative. "No man ever spoke like this man!"

(John 7:46)



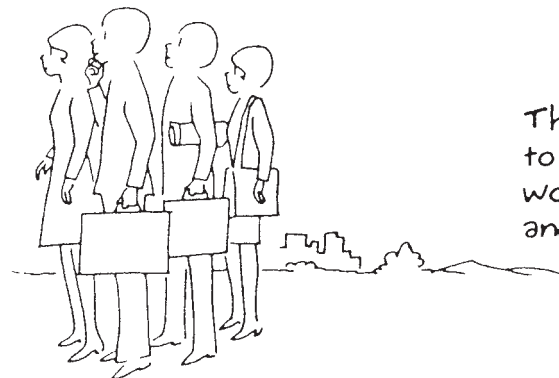
HIS DEEDS

His miracles revealed His compassion and divine power.



HIS LIFE

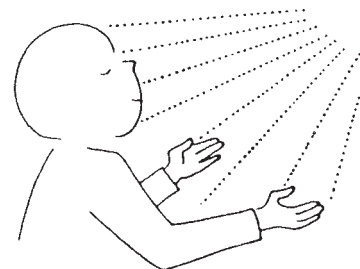
He rejected materialism, embraced poverty and invited all people – from the poorest beggar to the wealthiest merchant – to open their hearts to God.



There is no one "right" way to evangelize. We must each work with our own talents and situations in life.

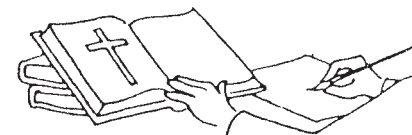
OPENNESS TO GOD

It is the Holy Spirit who converts people, we are only instruments. Become open to His guidance and let Him work through us.



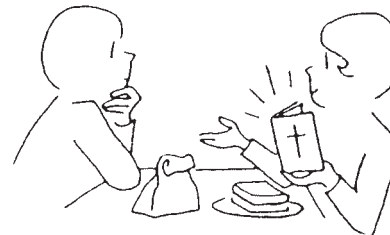
A METHOD

We must each find a way to communicate the Gospel that's appropriate to our listeners and comfortable to ourselves. We can speak to one or to many. Some tips: know the audience and identify with them. Plan what to say. Use personal experience to illustrate points.



SINCERITY

We must show that we believe our message with all our heart. Communicating our joy in being Christian can help convince others that Christianity has something special to offer.



REMEMBER:
evangelization is a
COMMUNITY EFFORT

- **SHOW UNITY** by working together through the parish.
- **COOPERATE** by getting involved in parish programs and looking to the priest and to other parishioners for guidance.
- **GIVE SUPPORT** by sharing methods and experiences with each other.

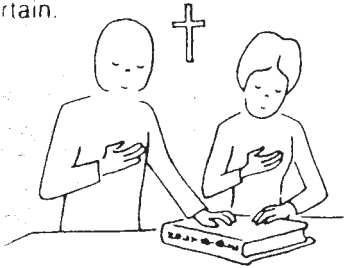
COMMUNICATING THE GOOD NEWS EFFECTIVELY



Basically we need --

A FIRM BELIEF

Conversion is a process, a growing relationship with Christ. Before beginning to evangelize, we must be sure of our own conversion. Our faith must be deep and certain.



CHRISTIAN QUALITIES

Show the world what it means to be Christian by developing extraordinary love, understanding and compassion for others, deep joy and peace, unflinching cheerfulness and courage.



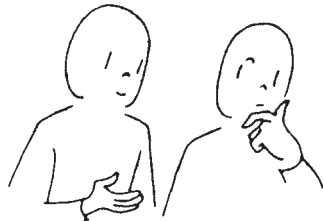
FIDELITY TO THE GOSPEL

We must stay true to the Gospel. Be familiar with Scripture and Catholic tradition. Present the spirit and words of the Gospel, not merely personal opinions on the Gospel.



A RESPECTFUL APPROACH

Our approach should be non-judgmental, humble and loving; for God values everyone. Lead people gently to Christ. Listen to what others have to say and respect their beliefs.



Today, the **GOOD NEWS** of Christ still proclaims --

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

It exists eternally. It unfolds to those who acknowledge and obey God's will.

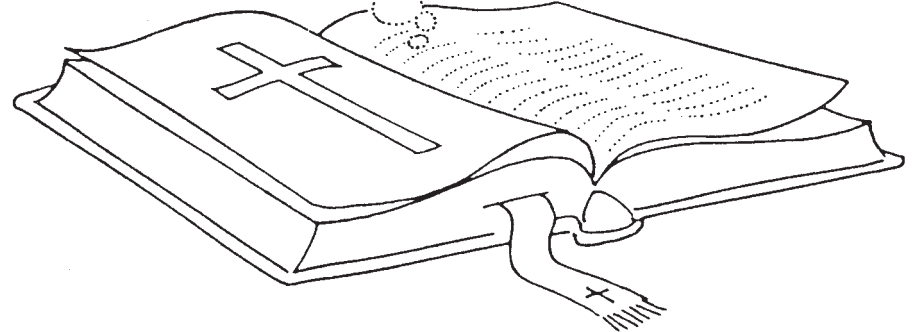
REPENTANCE

Those who repent of past sins and commit their lives to Christ will be liberated, made new and prepared for eternal life in God's kingdom.

SALVATION

Salvation -- liberation from loneliness, separateness and sin, oneness with God and eternal life in His kingdom -- is available because of Christ's death and resurrection.

GOD CALLS US ALL to eternal life through the Gospel message. We are invited to experience and share that message with others.



EVANGELIZATION THROUGH

It built the Church by using different approaches to meet the needs of a growing and changing world.

EXPANSION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

The Apostles and St. Paul converted many through personal preaching and writings.

The members of this newly-formed Christian community in turn spread the Good News to others.

The Church grew rapidly in spite of persecution. In 313 A.D., Christianity was declared the official religion of the Roman Empire.

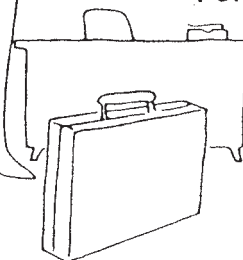


EARLY MEDIEVAL EFFORTS

When the Church was officially established, the task of spreading the Gospel began to fall principally on priests and monks. Their missionary work concentrated on converting pagan peoples. By the 9th century, missionary activity declined.



At every opportunity, wherever we are, in whatever we're doing. For example --



AT HOME

We can evangelize in all that we do for others. Parents and children can evangelize through frequently discussing Christ and the Gospels; attending church regularly; sharing love for God; and loving, supporting, trusting and forgiving one another.

AT WORK

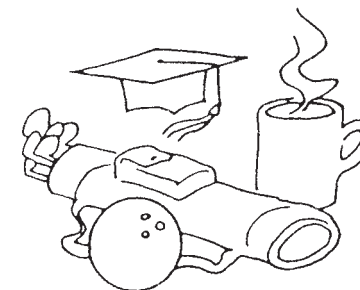
Wherever we work -- in office or field, on assembly line or on stage -- we can spread Christ's message by the loving way we relate to others or through discussion.

AT SCHOOL

Students who have a deep faith can share it with their friends and peers.

DURING LEISURE TIME

We can find many opportunities to evangelize through word and deed while out shopping, visiting neighbors, and on special occasions such as weddings, funerals, graduations.



WHOM
should we
evangelize
?



Everyone, including --

INACTIVE CATHOLICS

Millions of Catholics have stopped living their faith. Evangelization can lead them back to the peace and joy of the Church by stressing understanding rather than inducing guilt for not practicing their faith.

PRACTICING CATHOLICS

In this hurried, secular world, evangelization helps strengthen our faith and commitment and gives us a new, deeper understanding of what Church and Gospel mean.

OTHER CHRISTIANS

Evangelization can aid in unifying Christian churches by encouraging dialogue. It can also draw back to Christ those who don't practice their faith.

EVANGELISTS get much in return, for "... in evangelizing, one becomes evangelized."

(Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*).



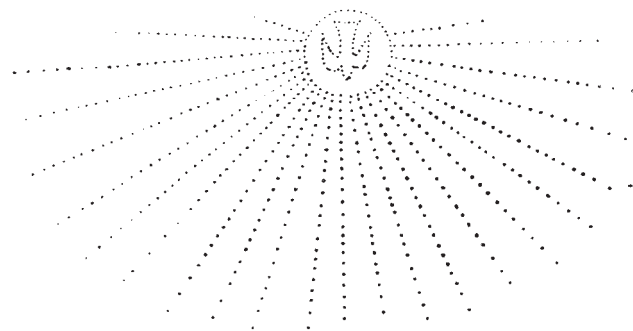
NON-CHRISTIANS

Evangelization can introduce those who search for the truth to the love and goodness of Jesus Christ. In Christ, they can find the answer.

NON-BELIEVERS

Evangelization can make those who have no religion aware that in Christ there's an answer to all our problems.

HISTORY



**WORK
IN NEW LANDS**

Beginning in the 1500's, the discovery and colonization of new lands stimulated renewed missionary activity. Evangelization abroad was the duty of the clergy, monks, etc. As colonies around the world won independence, mission work again declined.

In the early years of the U.S., the Catholic Church emphasized strengthening the faith of immigrants rather than reaching out to others.



TODAY

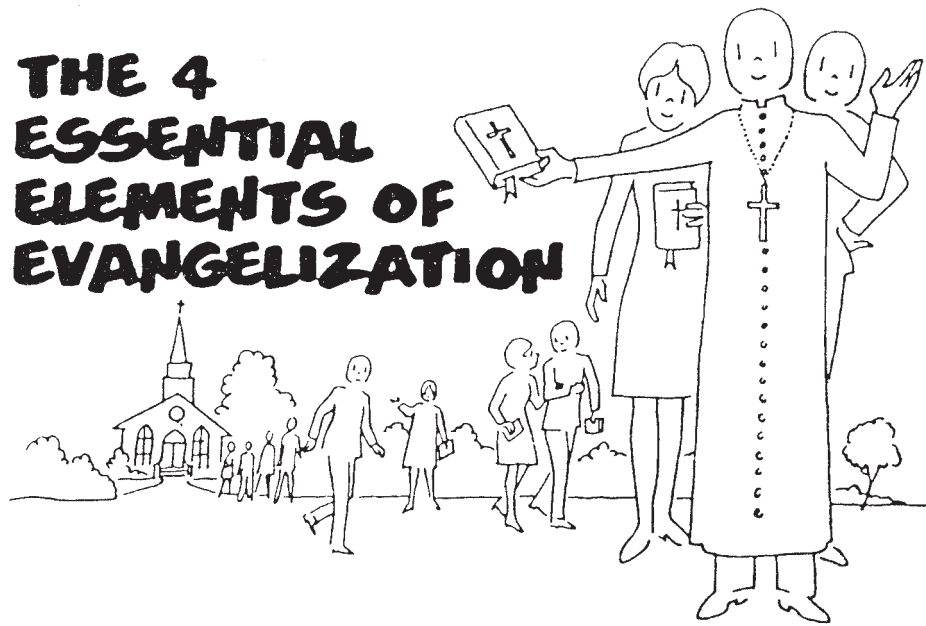
The challenge of today is 80 million unchurched - 15 million of them alienated Catholics.

The Church is once more emphasizing person-to-person evangelization. Lay people as well as clergymen . . . are expected to bring faith to those who have none and to help deepen the faith of those who already believe.



We are the Church,
so we must all get
involved in spreading
the Good News.

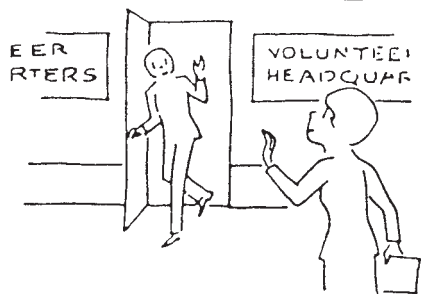
THE 4 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF EVANGELIZATION



1

WITNESS OF LIFE

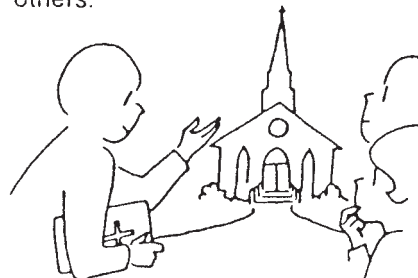
People are more convinced by deeds than by words. We should proclaim the Gospel by living our faith, loving God and neighbor selflessly and obeying God's will. Our happiness in Christ will attract attention and help draw others to Christ.



2

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Witness of life alone is not enough. We must also talk about the Gospel, telling the Good News of Christ's life and teachings. Explaining how Christ has changed our lives can change the lives of others.



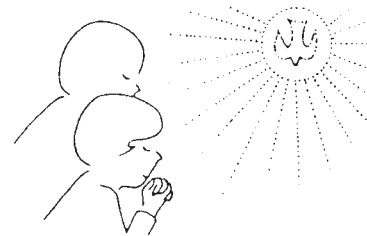
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What Every Catholic Should Know About EVANGELIZATION (cont.)

3

ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST

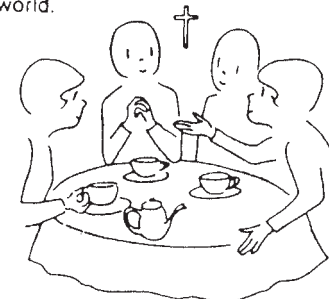
Evangelization is successful when we accept Jesus and choose to live by His word. This internal change must be translated into outward action by acceptance of the Church and the Sacraments.



4

DISCIPLESHIP

The person who has been inwardly converted must in turn become a witness and proclaim the Good News to others. In this way, God's kingdom will spread throughout the world.



"...Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God..."
(Ephesians 4:24)

THE EVANGELIST seeks to bring others to Christ and to eternal life.

THE PERSON EVANGELIZED accepts Christ and is converted.

CONVERSION IS THE GOAL OF EVANGELIZATION
Conversion is an **INNER TRANSFORMATION** that changes our outer lives, makes us new and prepares us for eternal life.

- Conversion involves --
- **ACCEPTANCE** of Christ as Savior and of God as loving Father
 - **REPENTANCE** for past sins
 - **LIBERATION** from selfishness and sin.

