

CTK Evangelization Ministry



“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.”

- Matthew 28:19



“The Church which ‘goes forth’ is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step... Evangelizers must take the ‘smell of their sheep’...”

- Joy of the Gospel

What is Evangelization?

- Proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- Understanding the act of Faith
- Encountering the Truth
- Experiencing the “Mystery” of God.

“The words you gave me I have given to them, and they accepted them.” – Jn. 17:8.

Theological Principles of Evangelization

1. Soteriological Principle – the salvation of souls, conversion and transformation.
2. Christological Principle – Evangelization preaches Christ.
3. Ecclesiological Principle – Evangelization involves the Church.
4. Anthropological Principle – Created in the image and likeness of God, man finds himself in Jesus Christ.

Two Aspects of Evangelization

Evangelization as an Ecclesial Act

- An act of the Church
- Personal Discernment by both clergy and laity

Evangelization as Mission

- Mission is to bring the Gospel of Christ to people wherever they are found.
- “Evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach the Gospel.” – Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14

The “New Evangelization”

- Term was first introduced by the Latin American bishops Sept. 6, 1968.
- St. John Paul II, homily entitled “*The Cross of Nowa Huta: a New Seed of Evangelization*”, June 9, 1979. At this homily, JP II used the concept of “New Evangelization” during his visit to his native country of Poland during the first year of his pontificate.
- JP II then subsequently made the term “New Evangelization” more pervasive and electric.
- In 1992, JP II announced, while speaking to the Latin American bishops on the 500th anniversary of the Evangelization of the Americas, that the New Evangelization was to be launched

The “New Evangelization”

- JP II pledges everything to its success.
- 1990 Encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, “I sense that the moment has come to commit all the church’s energies to a new evangelization. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church, can avoid this supreme duty; to proclaim Christ to all peoples.”
- Pastoral Trips in service of promoting the New Evangelization include: visiting 129 countries, traveling 1 million miles, introduced World Youth Days, reached out with electronic media.

What is New about the “New Evangelization”?

Pope Benedict, Synod of Bishops 2012:

- To be carried out by everyone in the Church
- On going conversion
- Evangelize both culture and society
- Revitalizing the de-Christianized

“Many of our brothers and sisters are baptized, but insufficiently evangelized. Nations once rich in faith and in vocations, are losing their identity under the influence of a secularized culture. The need for a new evangelization ... must be valiantly reaffirmed.” – Benedict XVI, Verbum Domini, 2010

Common Objections to the “New Evangelization”

As noted by Cardinal Avery Dulles, 1992:

1. Evangelization had Protestant ring to it.
2. It had connotations or common associations with fundamentalism
3. Methods used were commonly non-Catholic and anti-Catholic.
4. Evangelization suggested emotionalism, revivalism, and anti-intellectualism.
5. Evangelism suggested tele-evangelists.
6. Americans considered religion & politics a private, never to be discussed in polite company

New Evangelization

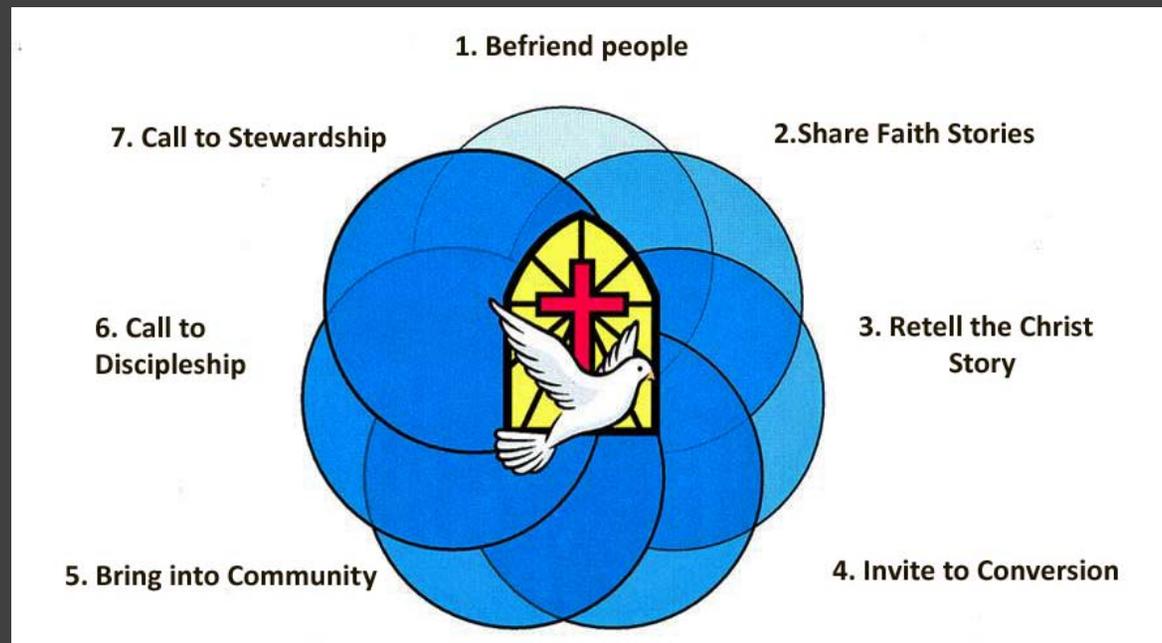
Inculturation of the Gospel

- The Mission of the Church is to evangelize both people & culture.
- The goal of the New Evangelization is to bridge Faith & Culture.

Evangelization as a lifelong catechesis

- The method of the New Evangelization is Catechesis

Stages in the Evangelization Process



The Scope of the Problem

1. Today's different world and changing society

- Erosion of family values
- Informational technology and economy
- Increase in mobility
- Immigration & Globalization

2. Baby boomers and young adulthood

- Decisions about family & work
- Uncertainties in life such job security and national security

3. Failure of the ministerial model of the Church

New “Missional” Model

- Evangelization & Ministry merge
- Going to where people gather
- Evangelizing moves from the center of the Church to the edge

Strategy for the New Evangelization

Entry points for missionary activity

1. **Social and Peer Networks** - i.e. interest groups, professional gatherings, neighborhood associations, athletic & recreational groups, online networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+)
2. **Family** - i.e. “domestic” life decisions, family prayer, parents catechizing children, daycare centers & community centers
3. **Work** - i.e. workplace environment, outsourcing, lay-offs, two job careers
4. **Transcendent/Spiritual** - i.e Revised interest in meditation/mysticism, countercultural forms of prayer/worship, lack on interest in institutional religion.
5. **Service in the Public Square** - i.e Volunteer movements that serve the poor, sick, & homeless; volunteers for social justice; public square protests
6. **Life Passages** - i.e. births, weddings, funerals, graduations, engagements, retirements, life transitions, illnesses, milestones.

USCCB Strategic Plan

The New Evangelization: Faith, Worship, Witness

- Goals:
 - Engage those faithful who need to be renewed with increased catechesis
 - Reach those who have never heard the Gospel
 - Reengage those baptized but have lost sense of faith in their daily lives
- Three-fold movements:
 - Faith – invites Catholics to a deeper relationship with Christ and his Church, knowledge of faith
 - Worship – Gospel & Sacraments, most especially Eucharist & Penance
 - Witness – publicly witnessing to Jesus Christ, by upholding dignity of life & freedom of religion, and transforming society

