

# EVANGELIZATION

SAINT MARIE PARISH  
EVANGELIZATION CENTER

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## SESSION I

**I. CHRIST THE PERSONAL EVANGELIZER** (see Lk 4:42-44; Jn 1:35-50; Mk 5:18-20; Mk 16:9-15).

**II. CHRISTIANITY IS A PERSON:** "There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved" (Ac 4:12). So, for the baptized, in the words of Saint Peter, "It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard" (Ac 4:20).

**III. EVANGELIZE:** "Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15):

A. Preach or spread the Gospel [Good News] by "word and action" (Pope Paul VI):

1. "Put on the new self" (Ep 4:23); and,
2. "Be reconciled with God" (Rm 5:10-11).

**IV. VATICAN COUNCIL II:** "To make the Church of the modern world [twenty-first century] better fitted for

proclaiming the Gospel" (EN, p. 38). This is possible because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb 13:8). Hence, the call for renewed evangelization includes seeking the means of advanced studies and updating methods (EN, p. 39).

**V. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:** The Church and the Living Person, Jesus Christ, are inseparable. As one, they are both the evangelizer and the evangelized (Mt 28:19-20):

**B.** The Deposit of Faith (EN, p. 43);

**C.** Liturgy (EN, pp. 27-29):

1. Word;

2. Sacrifice; and,

3. Sacrament(s);

**D.** Baptized to baptized (EN, p. 15).

**IV. EVANGELIZING THE LAITY OF TODAY** (EN, pp. 32-33).

Through the anointment that comes from the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the laity are appointed to an apostolate of their own free choice by Christ himself (AA no.3).

### **SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

**1. DEFINITION:** Evangelization is bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity. Through its influence, that is, by the Divine

Power contained within the *Message*, it can transform the "inner man" (Ep 4:23) and help him or her to "put on the mind of Christ" (Ph 2:5). Persons renewed in and by the Sacrament of Baptism must live their lives according to the *Gospel* — in word and action — NOT according to policies, procedures, programs, plans, practices, or short-term strategies. Furthermore, the *Gospel* must be proclaimed without ambiguity, and its whole *Message* must not be reduced to a particular point or single section.

**2. PURPOSE:** The purpose of evangelization is to help bring about an interior change in or the conversion of a person through the Divine Power of the *Message* proclaimed — arousing the individual conscience, renewing the activities in which he or she is engaged, and assessing the concrete milieu or environment in which he or she lives.

**3. MEANS:** The primary means of evangelization is by a witness of life that proclaims the Word of Life, that is, there is **NO** true evangelization **WITHOUT** proclaiming the Living Person, Jesus Christ: the *God-Man* (EN, p. 24). In a nutshell, the means of evangelization is an **INTEGRATION** of the following basic elements: inner renewal, witness of life, proclamation of a Living Person, faithful adherence to the Deposit of Faith of the Catholic Church, a united liturgical and sacramental life, and apostolic initiatives.