



ST. PAUL STREET EVANGELIZATION

“In order to build a civilization of love, we must first create a culture of evangelization.”



The Evangelist's Prayer

Written by Father Charlie Fox

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 our words and our 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.

Amen.



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A Simple Overview of the Evening

- WHAT?
- WHY?
- WHO?
- WHEN?
- WHERE?
- HOW???



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WHAT is SPSE?

St. Paul Street Evangelization is a grassroots, non-profit Catholic evangelization organization dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking our Catholic Faith to the streets. We do this in a non-confrontational way, allowing the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of those who witness our public Catholic presence. St. Paul Street Evangelization provides an avenue for you to share the Person of Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith with a hungry culture.



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WHY am I here speaking to you?

More importantly, what brings YOU here?



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**WHY is there a need
for CATHOLICS to EVANGELIZE?**



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According to the Barna Research Group's book Churchless, 65% of those adults surveyed who do not attend any church said that they define themselves as "spiritual people," and 51% said that they are actively seeking something better spiritually than they have experienced to date. 41% "strongly agree" that their religious faith is very important to their life today.

Why don't they go to church? 15% say it is because they are not interested or it is too boring. 13% have no particular reason. 11% are too busy to go. Almost 40% of those who avoid church do so for reasons that have nothing to do with objections to organized religious faith.

At the same time, more of the unchurched are becoming more resistant to going to church. In 1993, 65% of those surveyed said that they would go to church if a friend invited them. Today only 47% responded in the affirmative.

In 1993, 34% said they would consider attending if a pastor or member of the church came to their home and invited them. Only 27% responded in the affirmative today.

Likewise, fewer self-identified Catholics are attending Mass on a regular basis, with fewer than 10% of those aged 18-25 being active.



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WHO is called to spread the GOOD NEWS?



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YOU ARE!



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“In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization”(#120).

--Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel)



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WHEN can one EVANGELIZE?



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There is no time that is not a good time to preach the Gospel!



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For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Mt 18:20)

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.” (Lk 10:1)



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WHERE can one EVANGELIZE?



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- Festivals
- Street Corners
- Parks
- Bus Stops
- Any public place



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SO...how exactly does one EVANGELIZE?



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#ShareTheFaith
streetevangelization.com



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1.

A team of at least two Catholic evangelists choose a place in their city or town with a moderate to high level of pedestrian traffic. Examples of suitable locations include an open-air market, such as an art fair or farmers' market; a bus-stop or subway station platform; a public park.



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2.

The evangelists “set up shop” with a sandwich-board sign and a collection of materials: assorted pamphlets on aspects of Catholicism, holy cards, Rosaries, Miraculous Medals, etc.

A small table or blanket is often useful for displaying the materials and drawing the attention of passersby, but it is not essential.



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3.

The evangelists then say a prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit to guide their efforts for that day, asking to be courageous, humble, and docile to His promptings. They ask through Our Lady's intercession for the Lord to send them the people He desires them to encounter, and they pray that all may be done for the greater glory of God.



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4.

At this point, the evangelists simply wait for passersby to draw near and offer them free Rosaries. When someone stops to take a Rosary, the evangelizers also provide a pamphlet on how to pray the Rosary and attempt to further engage the person. A question that is often effective is “Are you Catholic?” as the answer can provide a springboard for further conversation in many different directions. By asking follow-up questions, the evangelizer can discover whether a person is a practicing Catholic, fallen-away Catholic, Protestant, New Ager, atheist, etc. — information that is key in guiding a conversation to meet that person where he or she “is at.” It is recommended to pray the rosary while waiting for people to approach or in between conversations.



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5.

Keep in mind that the evangelists are there to be a public witness to the Catholic Church and to be obedient to the Holy Spirit. They should be charitable, good listeners, willing to pray with people, humble. They are not to be argumentative or combative, but should certainly defend and explain the truths of the Catholic faith and challenge their listeners in a spirit of sincerity and compassion. They should remember that Christ said that those who are persecuted for His sake are blessed and should not let a conversation they perceive as a failure get them down. God works in all situations.



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6.

While using this non-confrontational method of evangelization can be very effective at strengthening the faith of practicing Catholics, bringing back into the Faith fallen away Catholics, and converting to the Faith non-Catholics, we recognize that it is our job to plant seeds, and in the end, it is up to God to make those seeds grow.



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Some Common Questions and Misconceptions



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“Do I have to have a PhD in Theology to evangelize?”



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“I’m Catholic. We don’t talk about Jesus.”



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“I don’t have time”



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So...

What can you do after you leave tonight?



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Pray



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Discern



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Respond



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“Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

-Isaiah 41:10



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