



September 14, 2015

Monday

MESSAGING

EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVE

SYNOD 2016

COME, ENCOUNTER CHRIST! Eucharistic Events

The need for an Evangelization Initiative in the Archdiocese of Detroit:

- Evangelization is the top mission priority of the Archdiocese of Detroit
- Declining sacramental activity prompts a change in pastoral strategy
- The natural state of the Church is one of growth. We are living in a time of unnatural deterioration of the Church. The decline in sacramental participation and vocations as well as the closing of parishes are unnatural aberrations rooted in an erosion of evangelization.
- We need to undo some of what we've become as a people of Christ – passive in prioritizing and living our faith, sad about the perceived decline of the importance of Jesus and Church institutions, and accustomed to malaise rooted in believing there is little that can be done.
- We are at a moment where we must make an intentional shift to rediscover our first call as Catholics: to live and share the good news of Jesus Christ.
- We must change the culture of Catholic life in the Archdiocese of Detroit toward becoming intentional, active disciples of Jesus in our thoughts, words, and actions.

The purpose of an Evangelization Initiative in the Archdiocese of Detroit:

- Elevate the presence and importance of Christ in individuals, families, parishes, schools, and Catholic institutions to receive the good news, to live it, and to share it with our friends, our families, in our workplaces, and beyond.
- Response to an impulse of the Holy Spirit for all to personally encounter Jesus, grow intentionally as disciples, and learn to witness to the power and love of Jesus.
- Response to the call from Vatican II to empower the laity for evangelization¹.
- To bring about this radical change in our culture, we must reignite the long-dormant call to evangelize ourselves and others. Doing so is akin to changing our DNA – the change must be that fundamental to our being.
- An Evangelization Initiative will launch a new vision to change our Catholic culture, through which our routine expectations and experiences will embrace an ongoing call to Christ in an evangelizing, missionary Archdiocese of Detroit.
- This total mobilization will reorient our energies and resources to become an evangelizing Archdiocese, where individuals and families establish and share personal, intimate relationships with Jesus.
- A milestone on the journey to bring about this culture change is an archdiocesan Synod in the fall of 2016.

¹ [Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity](#)

The **need** for a Synod:

- This sweeping call to evangelization demands considerable pastoral and spiritual formation. It is an activity of which many are unfamiliar.
- Our clergy and faithful need some time to learn about evangelization and to develop the attitude and the means by which we can fruitfully embrace this call. An archdiocesan Synod on Evangelization is the proper environment in which clergy and faithful can collaborate to address the many questions that must be answered to attempt such significant change.
- The Synod is the way the Church has renewed itself through generations. It is a transformative event. In the life of the church this has been the way to deal with pressing matters.
- The work of the Synod is to promote acceptance of the Church's salvific doctrine and to encourage the faithful in their following of Christ.
- Get us on the path of making evangelization a natural, organic thing.
- The previous Synod in the Detroit Archdiocese was in 1969. Among the important outcomes was a broader integration of the lay faithful in parish life and operations. Parish councils resulted, a change that was a departure at the time, but now considered a normal expectation. Similarly, a Synod on Evangelization will help us understand how we will become an evangelizing diocese, established in our time and sustained through future generations.

The **purpose** of the Synod:

- Assist Archbishop Vigneron in the exercise of governing the Catholic community in southeast Michigan – specifically to elevate the primacy of evangelization in all the clergy and faithful think, speak, and do in their daily lives.
- According to Pope Francis, a synod is not a parliament, but a protected space in which the Holy Spirit can work. It is an opportunity to make ourselves, as an entire Archdiocese, humble and docile before the Holy Spirit.
- Through the Synod, which is both an event and a process, we will inform ourselves on the nature and practice of evangelization as our first and most important pastoral activity.
- The Synod will enable us to begin the conversation on how our parishes, schools, hospitals, Catholic Charities, and other institutions might each become evangelizing, missionary communities.
- Establish practices that will encourage evangelization as a normal activity of our Catholic institutions

1. Come, Encounter Christ!

- Renew and energize your personal relationship with Jesus through a dynamic worship experience featuring inspirational preaching, uplifting music, eucharistic adoration, and opportunities for private confession!
- Experience a life-changing encounter with the person of Jesus Christ!
- Each “Come, Encounter Christ!” experience will occur on three consecutive evenings with different dynamic preachers and themes each night – all focused on the true eucharistic presence of Jesus and how to begin a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior.
- Have you wondered what it’s like to encounter the living Christ? Have you ever longed to share your deepest concerns and hear Him speak into your heart? Come, Encounter Christ! will help you to experience the living Christ and inspire you to know Him more. Come, experience the Catholic Church alive! Come, Encounter Christ!
- Participation in all three nights is ideal, but you can come to one or more nights. 7:00 to 8:30 pm for the first two nights
- 7:00-9:00 on third night, which includes eucharistic procession and benediction
- Hospitality and refreshments at the conclusion of each night

2. Unique worshipful environments

- Dramatic lighting, incense, and procession will draw you into the true presence of Jesus Christ
- Terrific live music to the elements of the experience.
- Come hear life applicable preaching relevant for experiencing Jesus and encountering him like never before.
- Something really unique - you don’t want to miss. Come, Encounter Christ! Gatherings are not the parish missions of old!

3. Bring someone to share the experience

- Do you want to help someone grow in their relationship with Christ? Invite a loved one and share the love of Christ.
- Have a friend or neighbor who needs the love and mercy of Christ? Invite them to join you!
- Know anyone who has lost faith, left the Catholic Church, or simply remains indifferent to God and religion? Invite them to come!

4. Learn more

- Visit: <http://www.aod.org/Being-Catholic/Evangelization/Come-Encounter-Christ/>
- Questions? Call William Blaul at 313-237-5801 or email blaul.william@aod.org

