



The New Evangelization: The Extraordinary Mission of our Time

DIOCESAN-WIDE PARISH STUDY
DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS

A “New” Cultural Reality



The “new” secular and now post-Christian culture demands a new way of teaching, witnessing, and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ—one that is new in its ardor, methods, and expressions.



A “New” Ecclesial Reality

A New Pentecost Inaugurates a New Evangelization

In our times, the Church after Vatican II in a renewed outpouring of the Spirit of Pentecost has come to a more lively awareness of her missionary nature and has listened again to the voice of her Lord who sends her forth into the world as "the universal sacrament of salvation".

You go too. The call is a concern not only of Pastors, clergy, and men and women religious. The call is addressed to everyone: lay people as well are personally called by the Lord, from whom they receive a mission on behalf of the Church and the world. (St. John Paul II, *Christifidelis laici*, 2)



A “New” Missionary Landscape



The New Evangelization is directed “principally at those who, though baptized, have drifted away from the Church and live without reference to the Christian life... to help these people encounter the Lord, who alone fills our existence with deep meaning and peace; and to favor the rediscovery of the faith, that source of grace which brings joy and hope to personal, family and social life.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily of October 7, 2012)



A Biblical Paradigm: The Road to Emmaus



A Divine Pedagogy



➤ Encounter: Personal Encounter



A Divine Pedagogy



- Encounter: Personal Encounter
- Reveal: Evangelization/Catechesis



A Divine Pedagogy



- Encounter: Personal Encounter
- Reveal: Evangelization/Catechesis
- Invite: Call to Conversion



A Divine Pedagogy



- Encounter: Personal Encounter
- Reveal: Evangelization/Catechesis
- Invite: Call to Conversion
- Initiate: Missionary Discipleship



Be All In!

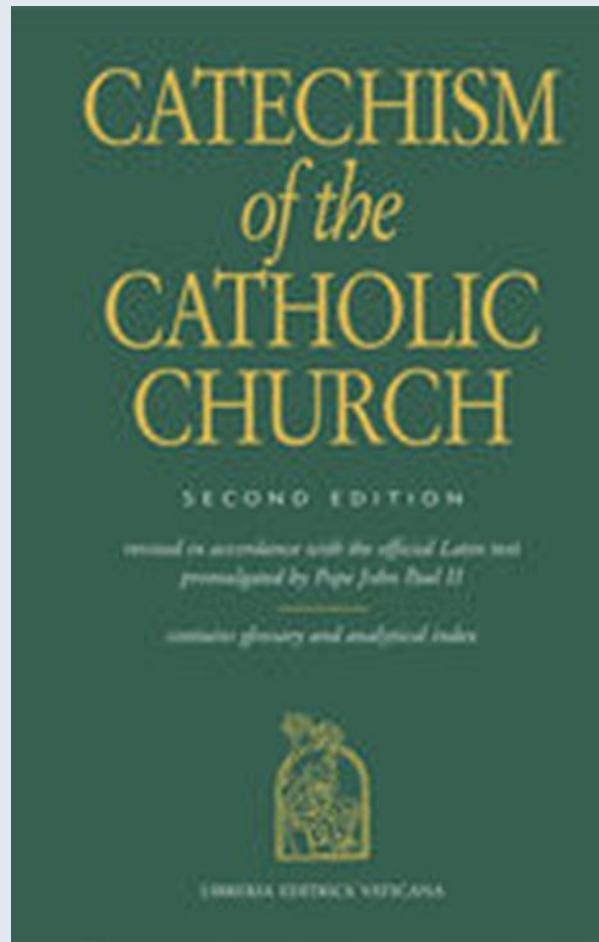


“Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:69)

"The obedience of faith is to be given to God who reveals, an obedience by which man commits his whole self freely to God, offering the full submission of intellect and will to God who reveals," and freely assenting to the truth revealed by Him." (Dei Verbum, 5)



Deeply Know Your Faith



“It must be restated that nobody in the Church of Jesus Christ should feel excused from receiving catechesis.”

“The most valuable gift that the Church can offer to the bewildered and restless world of our time is to form within it Christians who are confirmed in what is essential and who are humbly joyful in their faith.” (St. John Paul II, *Catechesi tradendae*, 45, 61)



Everything is Staked on Holiness



It is ever more urgent that today all Christians take up again the way of gospel renewal, welcoming in a spirit of generosity the invitation expressed by the apostle Peter "to be holy in all conduct" (1 Pt 1:15)... "Since the Church in Christ is a mystery, she ought to be considered the sign and instrument of holiness... Men and women saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult circumstances in the Church's history. Today we have the greatest need of saints whom we must assiduously beg God to raise up." (St. John Paul II, *Christifideles laici*, 16)



Eucharist: Source and Summit



“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)



Our Call to Missionary Discipleship

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, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples". (Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, 120)



The H.A.B.I.T.S. of a Missionary Disciple

H – Holy Hour: Start with 10 minutes of daily prayer and gradually grow it into an hour.

A – Accountability: Be transparent with at least one friend who will hold you accountable to being a disciple.

B – Bible study and prayer: Let God’s Word transform your mind and connect you to Jesus in prayer.

I – Invest in your parish: Tithe and serve in the mission of your parish.

T – Tell: Boldly tell others about your faith.

S – Sacraments: Participate as frequently as you can and call upon the grace of the sacraments in your daily life.



Do Not Be Afraid: Evangelize!

Be fishers of men and women and B.A.I.T. them for Christ!

B – Be open: We need to be open to the opportunity to evangelize.

A – Ask: Pray for them and ask God to open their hearts to him.

I – Invite: Pray to the Holy Spirit to provide an opportunity to invite them to coffee, or an event at the parish, etc.

T – Tell: Tell them about the difference that God has made in your life.



Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way

Let us go forward in hope! A new millennium is opening before the Church like a vast ocean upon which we shall venture, relying on the help of Christ. The Son of God, who became incarnate two thousand years ago out of love for humanity, is at work even today: we need discerning eyes to see this and, above all, a generous heart to become the instruments of his work...Now, the Christ whom we have contemplated and loved bids us to set out once more on our journey: "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" (Mt 28:19). The missionary mandate accompanies us into the Third Millennium and urges us to share the enthusiasm of the very first Christians: we can count on the power of the same Spirit who was poured out at Pentecost and who impels us still today to start out anew, sustained by the hope "which does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5). (St. John Paul II, *Novo millennio ineunte*, 58)

