

The Essential Aspects of Evangelization

“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, ‘The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me. For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Rom 15:1-3

The Premise

Evangelization is never “itinerant” one always acts in the name of the Church.

The Method

Evangelization is for no one an individual and isolated act; it is one that is deeply ecclesial.

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The Method of Evangelization and Discipleship

Jesus personally selected those who would carry out his evangelistic efforts:

- Jn 15:16
- Mk 13:13-19
- Lk 6:13-16

Jesus empowered them and gave them a ministry to represent Him:

- Mk 6:7-13
- Lk 9:2 ff
- Mt 10:8-14

Jesus sent them out:

- Mt 2:18-20
- Mk 16:15
- Lk 24:27

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the name of the Apostles Peter and Paul, we wish to exhort all those who, thanks to the charisms of the Holy Spirit and to the mandate of the Church, are true evangelizers.

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Four Major Parts to the Evangelization Process

Introduction

Gospel

Invitation and Commitment

Follow-Up

The Original Kerygma as a Basis for the New Evangelization

Via

Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:22-42

- Incarnation: Jesus sent with miracles, signs, wonders
- Cross/Redemption/Resurrection
- Reform and be Baptized
- Baptism – description of community

Acts 3:12-26

- Intro: to speech – man healed
- Jesus – death/resurrection
- Reform – turn to God
- Jesus – the Messiah
- You are heirs of the covenant

Acts 4:8-12

- Miracles worked in Jesus' name
- You crucified him
- He is risen
- Salvation in Him alone, in no other

Acts 5:29-32 (In response to the Sanhedrin)

- God raise up Jesus
- Whom you put to death
- Jesus at God's right hand
 - Rules
 - Savior
- To bring repentance and forgiveness

Acts 10:34-43

- Good news of Peace – Jesus, Lord of all
- John's Baptism
- Jesus' ministry – his works – miracles
- Crucifixion
- Resurrection
- Judge of All
- Believe in Jesus – forgiveness of sins

Acts 13:16-41

- God's promises/fulfillment to people of Israel
- Death
- Resurrection

Romans 5:12-16

- Adam's Sin
- Gift of God
- Jesus – one right act – acquittal
- Eternal Life
- Response

Evangelization is the Greatest Act of Love

The basic premise toward evangelization is the sincere ability to love. God desires to share His kingdom with us out of love for us. Love is God's primary motivation for opening someone's heart to hear the Gospel.

- Rom 5:5-8

Death Proves Love

The most powerful proof of God's love is the offering of His Son Jesus Christ on the Cross. This is the most effective and profound tool the evangelist has. God did something for me. What he did was the greatest act of love in History; he took all my sins away through his death on the cross.

- Rom 8:35-39

Love is our Strength

We evangelize because the Father loves us.

- Mt 28:18-20
- 1 Tim 1:7

The biggest and most universal obstacle to evangelization is fear. The fire of God's love purifies us and burns out all imperfections preventing us from being evangelizers.

Perfect Love Casts Out all Fear – 1 Jn 4:18

- Rom 8:15