



## Essential Evangelization

### Love Letters

When was the last time you actually took pen to the paper and wrote a letter or a greeting card with an extended message to someone you love? In today's very fast paced society we are losing this art of personal communication. In our world of Blackberry's, Droids, e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, text-messaging and the like we are losing the art of deep personal communication with our friends and loved ones. We may have literally 100's of friends on Facebook through which we can "post" our thought or message of the day, but do we really have intimate friends with whom we can share our deepest hurts, sincere longings and greatest hopes? We are truly blessed if we have at least one intimate relationship with a spouse, family member or good friend.

In today's Second Reading we hear from St. Paul writing to his young friend and confidant Timothy, very likely from a lonely dank prison cell or dungeon. This Second Letter of Timothy is unfortunately St. Paul's swansong as he knows his death is imminent, and he reaches out in a letter of encouragement, and to pass the torch of evangelization on to the next generation of believers. Because Timothy traveled with, and formed a unique bond with Paul, Paul was successful in evangelizing this young man and in one verse even calls him "my son". The early Christians did not have mass media and the internet to spread their Good News. They did it face-to-face via friendship, one person at a time. And even today, the best organizations of the world know that the best advertisement of whatever they are selling is a word of mouth endorsement from a trusted friend.

And so it is with us and our efforts to evangelize. We very likely can't evangelize unless we are first a trusted and respected friend. So let us imitate Jesus and be a good friend to someone you love. Help them see the love of Christ in your heart and evangelize our world - one person at a time!

*"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather of love and self control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God."*

St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1: 7-8

This is one of a series of articles on  
*Evangelization from the  
Evangelization Committee*