



## *Essential Evangelization*

### **St. Paul**

Our beloved St. Paul used to hunt, jail and even murder Christians before he met Jesus. On the road to Damascus he was struck mightily to the ground from his high horse, blinded, and then hearing the words "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Up until that time, Paul's entire life was wasted. Paul, a Pharisee, had acquired a zealot's disgust and hatred for the followers of Jesus and chose to harass our church. But God has a way of using the unusual and unusable for the most important missions. Paul went on to become a great apostle and wrote more books of the divinely inspired Word of God of the New Testament than any other. January 25<sup>th</sup> our church celebrates the extraordinary event, The Conversion of St. Paul.

Jesus became the mysterious fulfillment of all Paul had pursued in his previous life. Now Paul was "sold out" for his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Jesus became all that Paul was viscerally searching for. The cross became his "boast" and he traded his sinful pride for a new life in Christ and experience real "love" for the first time. This new Paul was so extremely changed he even claimed, "When I am weak I am strong."

St. Paul's new message was the free gift of salvation through the Son of God and not by anything we can necessarily do. Saving faith is a free gift that no "works" of the Law could ever overcome. Do you have a new life in Christ? Do you really love?

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things"*

St. Paul's Love Letter, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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