



Essential Evangelization

What is Catholic Evangelization?

Evangelization is a difficult word for us Catholics. It may bring negative images of door to door expert scriptural apologetics. But the word "Evangel" means "good news" or "gospel." Evangelism is simply proclaiming the good news of the saving love of Jesus Christ.

The good news of salvation is proclaimed at each Mass. Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly." As Catholic Christians we have a baptismal responsibility to share our faith and the great work that God has done in our lives. Evangelization is also the process of being open to His Spirit's work in our daily lives and putting that message into practice and sharing it. Not just on Sunday, but 7 days a week in our families, in our work place and in our neighborhood. Our faith life should not be compartmentalized to our Sunday mornings and church meetings.

Forty percent of the United States, over 80 million people, currently have no church affiliation. Included in this 80 million, at over 20 percent, are alienated or inactive Catholics. Typically, one third to one half of even registered parishioners are also inactive in their home parishes. In a recent survey however, 52% of these inactives, when questioned, said they would welcome an invitation to come to church. And with the recent shortage of priests and formally ordained, our role of laity is even more important. The Great Commission and Jesus' command to, "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all creation," should be our *modus operandi*.

We can invite our Catholic neighbors to Mass on Sunday. We can also simply be a listening heart or to stop and pray with them. We can show them the better way by "our love for one another."

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves....But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does." (James 1:22&25)

*This is one of a series of articles on
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