



Essential Evangelization

Why the Church Exists

The Church exists in order to evangelize; that is to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass.

Anyone who re-reads the Gospel account of the origins of the Church sees that the Church is intimately linked to evangelization:

- The Church is born of the evangelizing activity of Jesus and the twelve apostles.
- The Church, in turn, is sent by Jesus. The whole Church receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important to the whole.
- The Church is an evangelizer. The Church begins by being evangelized through constant conversion and renewal in order to evangelize the world with credibility.
- The Church is the depository of the Good News to be proclaimed, and the Church preserves it as a precious living heritage in order to communicate it.
- Having been sent and evangelized, the Church sends out evangelizers to pass the Gospel on with complete fidelity.

There is therefore, a profound link between Christ the Church and evangelization.

Evangelii Nuntiandi #14, #15 & #16
By Pope Paul VI, Dec 8, 1975

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