

10 Principles of Evangelization

On Evangelization in the Modern World – Pope Paul VI, 1975

Mission of the Redeemer – Pope John Paul II, 1990

Go and Make Disciples – US Bishops, 1992

1. **Jesus** was the first and greatest evangelizer. We evangelize because he commanded us to do so. (EN 7, GAMD 28; RM 1, 4)
2. Evangelization proclaims the **kingdom of God**. The Church is at service to God's call to charity, justice and mercy. (EN 8; GAMD 4, 10; RM 13-20)
3. Evangelization is the **vocation of the Church**, her deepest identity. The Church exists in order to evangelize. (EN 14, 59; GAMD 8; RM 1, 77)
4. Evangelization means **bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation** and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself. (EN 18, GAMD 10, 19; RM 71-72) **
5. Evangelization clearly and persistently proclaims the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the **salvation** that comes with believing in him. (EN 9, 27; GAMD 29, 32; RM 5, 10, 44)
6. Evangelization entails **conversion** / metanoia (EN 10, 36; GAMD 12-14; RM 46)
7. The **Holy Spirit** is the principle agent of evangelization. (EN 75; GAMD 34; RM 21)
8. Evangelization is profoundly linked to **social justice** and human advancement. (EN 31, GAMD 18, RM 42)
9. Evangelization involves the **inculturation** of the Gospel message (EN 63, 20; RM 37, 52-54)
10. Evangelization does not involve **proselytizing**. The Catholic Church calls other Christian communities into an even deeper communion through dialogue and cooperation. The Church also respects and esteems non-Christian religions, rejecting nothing that is true or holy in these religions, and engaging them in inter-religious dialogue. Yet the Church clearly realizes that all people have the right to know the riches of Christ, and that God's plan is to unite all in Christ. (EN 18, 39-48, 53; GAMD 19, 41-44; RM 6, 8, 34, 50, 55)

** from *Dialogue and Proclamation* (1991) by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue: five qualities that should characterize the proclamation of the Gospel: 1) *confidence in the Holy Spirit* who is present and active among the hearers even before the Church's missionary activity comes into operation, 2) *fidelity* to the transmission of teaching that is received from Christ and preserved in the Church, 3) *humility* – realizing that the Revelation offered is received as a gift and messengers do not always live up to its demands, 4) *respect* for the presence and action of the Spirit of God in the hearts of those who listen invites the proclamation to be *dialogical* – the listener is not expected to be just a passive receiver, 5) the Gospel message should be *inculturated* in the cultural context of the listener to render it intelligible to them.

The Goal of Evangelization is ...

- to invite a person to believe in Jesus Christ;
- to enfold the believer in the sacramental, communal life of the Church;
- and then to enable, inspire and support a lifetime of full discipleship

Effective Evangelization – 6 Dimensions

1. Discipleship

- conscious commitment to follow Jesus Christ
- “cheap grace” vs. “costly grace”

2. Heart to Heart Relationships

- based on sincere care for others
- atmosphere of trust + openness

3. Lifestyle Witness

- Your public witness reflects Gospel values and virtues
- Credibility based on actions, attitudes, authenticity + fidelity
- Discipline “...brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness” Heb 12:11

4. Sharing the Good News

- “always be ready to give a reason...” 1 Peter 3:15
- your witness story / my experience
- don’t have to be a theologian

5. Inviting

- Listen!
- God’s heart is speaking through your heart to the heart of another
- Holy Spirit does the heavy lifting

6. Community Connection

- faith community as the Body of Christ / “the hem of Christ” (Mk 5)

Proud to be Catholic!

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strong moral teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Small group faith sharing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharist / Real Presence | <input type="checkbox"/> Devotion to Mary / Saints |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership of Pope / Bishops | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Ministers who care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teachings of the Catechism | <input type="checkbox"/> The Mass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service to poor / needy | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Sacraments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-life Advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Fellowship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |