

EVANGELIZATION
Preview Sheet
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We will spend our session thinking about Evangelization or what our Catholic leaders over the last decade have been calling “the New Evangelization.” To establish a context for your preparation, please read these few paragraphs below from the Preface to a document recently published by the USCCB called ***Disciples Called to Witness*** which can be found on their website.

“Christ commands us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. We are to proclaim his Good News to all people, everywhere and at all times. After Christ promises the disciples that the Holy Spirit will come upon them, he ascends into heaven. The disciples, rather than heeding Christ’s command to be his witnesses, stare “intently at the sky.” It takes “two men dressed in white garments” asking, “Men of Galilee, why are you . . . looking at the sky?” for the disciples to begin to realize the meaning of Christ’s command (Acts 1:10-11).

How often do we fail to realize that we are called to be Christ’s witnesses to the world? Do we realize that our Baptism, Confirmation, and reception of the Eucharist bestow on us the grace we need to be disciples? Are we like the disciples staring at the sky rather than inviting those around us to experience Christ’s love and mercy through the Church? How often do we reach out to our missing brothers and sisters by inviting them to join us at Mass or by asking why they no longer feel welcomed at the Lord’s Table? The answers to these questions underlie the evangelizing mission of the Church, especially in the call of the New Evangelization.

The New Evangelization seeks to invite modern man and culture into a relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. The New Evangelization strives to engage our culture and to help us draw our inspiration from the Gospel. The New Evangelization calls all Catholics first to be evangelized and then in turn to evangelize. While it is directed to all people, the New Evangelization focuses specifically on those Christian communities that have Catholic roots but have ‘lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church.’”

To prepare for this day on evangelization, please read the following:

Go and Make Disciples (GAMD) by the U.S. Bishops – we will spend most of our energy on this document; it presents the vision and goals of Catholic evangelization.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #849-856 (pages 225-227) – a brief section addressing the concept of mission

As you read these materials, please give some prayerful reflection to the following questions and come prepared to share your responses:

1. How does GAMD define or explain evangelization?

2. How could you explain this to someone you know who was raised Catholic but thinks evangelization is what the preachers on TV are all about?

3. What Gospel story would you select to show the meaning of evangelization? Why? What does this story say about the way the Gospel is spread?

4. How were you evangelized?

5. Do you feel comfortable sharing your faith and/or your faith story with others? Why or why not?

6. How is your parish evangelizing right now?

I look forward to joining you for a lively exploration and discussion on the New Evangelization. In the meantime, "Go and make disciples!"

John McGrath