

Rockford Diocese Ministry Formation Specialization Day

Evangelization

March 20, 2021

Presentation Outline

- Part One: We Are on a Mission (from God): Church teaching on evangelization
- Part Two: Great! Now What? Learn from my successes and missteps!
- Part Three: OK, But Now What? Possible next steps

Evangelization Quotes

The Church exists to evangelize ... "Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order 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, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection." Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi (Evangelization in the Modern World)*, no. 14, year: 1975.

"The rediscovery of the value of one's baptism is the basis of the missionary commitment of every Christian, because we see in the Gospel that he who lets himself be fascinated by Christ cannot do without witnessing the joy of following in his footsteps ... we understand even more that, in virtue of baptism, we have an inherent missionary vocation." Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, October 29, 2006.

"All who believe in Christ should feel, as an integral part of their faith, an apostolic concern to pass on to others its light and joy. This concern must become, as it were, a hunger and thirst to make the Lord known, given the vastness of the non-Christian world." Pope St. John Paul II, encyclical, *Redemptoris mission (The Mission of the Redeemer)*, no. 40, year: 1990.

"I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are. 'Mere administration' can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be 'permanently in a state of mission.'" – Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*, no. 25.

"One way to ensure that our parishes are true communities of evangelization, focused on preparing Christians for discipleship, is for the whole parish to undertake a process of discernment to evaluate current pastoral ministry and outreach programs. ... The

fruitfulness of pastoral ministry at the service of evangelization ... means discerning the state and life or *pulse* of the parish community and whether *maintenance and self-preservation* or *mission and evangelization* best describes the parish's life. Successful pastoral ministry also involves reevaluating parish ministries, programs, and activities to assess how effectively they serve missionary discipleship, with an honest assessment of how human and financial resources are prioritized and managed." – U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Living as Missionary Disciples: A Resource for Evangelization*, p. 2 (emphasis in the original).

Reading List for Parish Planning

Catholic Christian Outreach, "The Ultimate Relationship," 9th edition. Ottawa, Ontario: Catholic Christian Outreach Canada, 2015: 20 pp.

Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Living as Missionary Disciples: A Resource for Evangelization. Leadership Resource*. Washington, D.C.: U.S Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2017: 37 pp.

Mallon, James, *Divine Renovation: Bringing your Parish from Maintenance to Mission*. New London, Conn.: Twenty Third Publications, 2014: 286pp.

Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, *Directory for Catechesis*. Vatican City State, 2020.

Weddell, Sherry A, *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*. Huntington, Ind: Our Sunday Visitor, 2012: 256 pp.

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Additional resources will be available at: tinyurl.com/33mev93z