

Everyday Evangelizing

A Catholic approach to sharing our faith in the home, workplace, neighborhood and parish.



The U.S. Bishops, in '92, approved a National Plan and Strategy for Evangelization, "Go and Make Disciples."

Now we must be Evangelizers!

Share your faith with others

Evangelization has a rich heritage in the Catholic Church, a heritage that extends back 2,000 years to the very foundation of the Church. In fact, the Church exists in order to evangelize, according to Pope Paul VI in his 1975 apostolic exhortation *On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii Nuntiandi)*.

Become an Everyday Evangelizer for Christ

Evangelization is a word which we may not associate with the Catholic Church. It can be defined as a gentle, caring approach to sharing our Catholic faith through kind words, education, forgiveness, personal witness and positive action. Effective evangelizing is more like a steady drip than a big splash.

We are *all* called to evangelize and we can do this in simple ways in our everyday lives. Gentleness and reverence are the keys to evangelizing on a daily basis.

Everyday Evangelizing:

- Say "I will pray for you" to a co-worker who has shared some personal concern or *difficulty*.
- Respond "Thank God" when someone shares a success story with you.
- Make the sign of the cross as you pray before a meal in a restaurant
- Invite neighbors to social functions at your parish.

Everyday Evangelizing:

- Teach CCD and share your story as well as teach the text. You may be the only Gospel some students ever read.
- Help your parish to identify inactive Catholics in your neighborhood and send personal invitations, especially for Christmas and Easter.
- Invite someone who has been away from the Church for a while to attend Mass with you.
- Offer to help your neighbor even when it's not convenient
- Refer to the Bible in casual conversation with others.
- Take time in your life for those who are suffering or in need Remember, people are more important than tasks.
- When you see God working in your life, point it out to others. We are all enriched by the personal witness of others
- Talk to friends and co-workers about the good experiences you have had with the Church.
- Give money or food to a person in need Remember that when you reach out to the poor, you reach out to Christ himself
- Witness your faith with your own families and friends by gently stating, "I believe...".
- Introduce yourself to newcomers in the neighborhood and ask if they will be looking for a church to attend.

Everyday Evangelizing:

- Warmly greet others at Mass whom you do not know.
- Pray with your family on a daily basis. Establish family prayer rituals, but keep them short as children may not have the ability to attend to prayers for long periods. Short prayers of the heart have been urged by the saints throughout the centuries.
- Tactfully change the direction of the conversation at home or work when things take an uncharitable or gossipy turn.
- Send a sympathy or get-well card to neighbors or co-workers assuring them of your prayers.
- Volunteer your time for visiting shut-ins, elderly, prisoners, etc. Read them a passage from the Bible during your visit
- Be generous with compliments, especially to those who appear to be "down" today.
- Share a smile and a personal greeting with a stranger. Try to see Christ in everyone you encounter each day.
- Have a Mass said for a person in need and send them the Mass card
- Share an answered prayer with a friend, co-worker or family member.
- Allow your faith to carry over into your work by insisting on fair prices, good products and fair treatment for customers and employees alike.

Everyday Evangelizing:

- Be supportive of church leaders, local and national, they're human too.
- Evangelize yourself by reading Church teachings and documents of Vatican II. These can be found in any Catholic book store.
- Evangelize your children by sharing a Bible story with them before bedtime.
- Serve your parish as a Eucharistic minister, lector, choir member, etc.
- Incorporate a religious theme in your Christmas decorations and greeting cards.
- Read about the lives of the saints and share these stories with family, friends and co-workers.
- Start a Bible study or prayer group in your home for neighbors and friends. Rotate the facilitation of this group and make sure everyone gets a chance to explain what me Scripture passage means to them.
- Tell someone about a good book or tape to help them grow in their faith.
- Wear a cross on a chain or other religious article to work. You may be surprised how many times this will start a conversation about your faith.
- Have information about annulments and groups like separated and divorced Catholics available, just in case...
- Visit fallen away Catholics and invite them "home." Never pressure them, but listen to their concerns and respond with loving concern.

Everyday Evangelizing:

- Be an example to family/friends on how a believer acts and speaks.
- Learn about the everyday happenings and current issues in the Church by reading Catholic magazines, books and newspapers such as *The Catholic Telegraph* which is published by the diocese.
- Respond "God is good!" when someone tells you an uplifting story.
- Forgive someone who has wronged you. Ask for forgiveness from someone you have wronged
- Ask friends and family to pray for your special intentions.
- Make the sign of the cross when asked to pray at public events.
- Invite inactive and unchurched friends and neighbors to informational classes in your parish.
- Treat everyone you meet with dignity. No matter what they look like, how they try your patience or how they speak, they are part of the Body of Christ
- Do not judge others. Do not speak unkindly of others. Always look for the good in others and point this out when they are being maligned
- Visit someone in the hospital and say a prayer with them for me return of their health.