

#### Prayer To Saint Francis Xavier

O Father of goodness,

You so loved the world to give your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

Through the intercession of St. Francis Xavier,

who brought the Gospel of salvation to many people,

grant me be a courageous preacher of Your Word,

salt of the earth and light of the world.

Through the gift of the Spirit and the witness of my life,

May Your mercy be better known and all people enjoy Your salvation,

Through Christ our Lord.

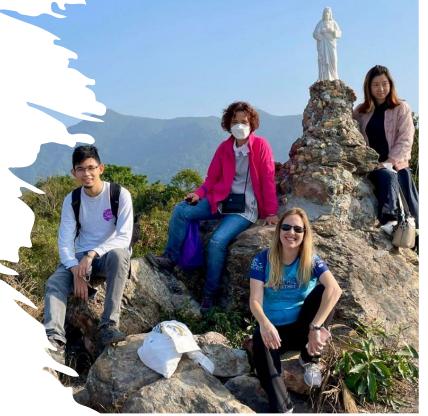
Amen.

























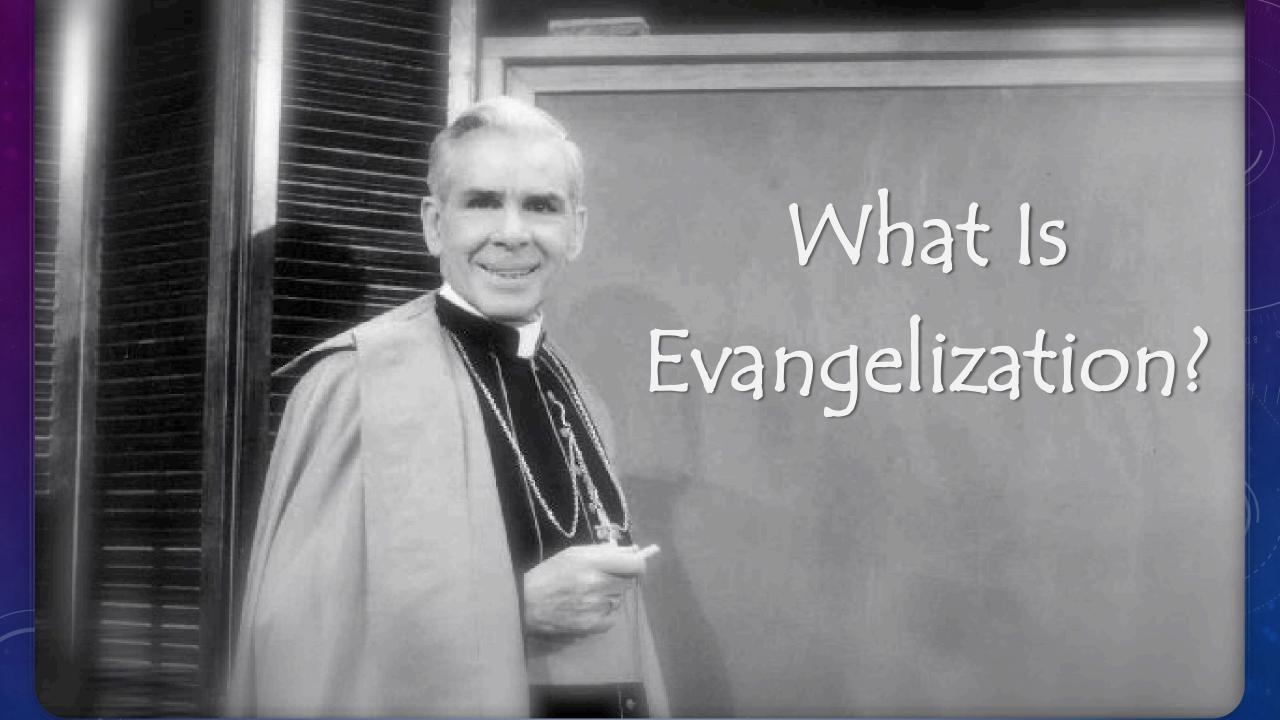














## Why Evangelize?

The call to evangelization belongs to every Christian





"Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" - Paul the Apostle

## Christian Responsibility











#### Christianity in Colorado & Denver

#### **Colorado**

- Over 3 million adults identify as Christian
  - 17% Evangelical Protestant
  - 14% Catholic
  - 14% Mainline Protestant
  - 1% Orthodox Christian
  - 2% Other Christian
- About half the population of Colorado

#### **Denver Metropolitan Area**

- Over 1.5 million adults identify as Christian
  - 10 % Evangelical Protestant
  - 15% Mainline Protestant
  - 19% Catholic
  - 5% Other Christian







More than half the people in the Denver Metro Area...

Don't know the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

# The Call To Evangelize

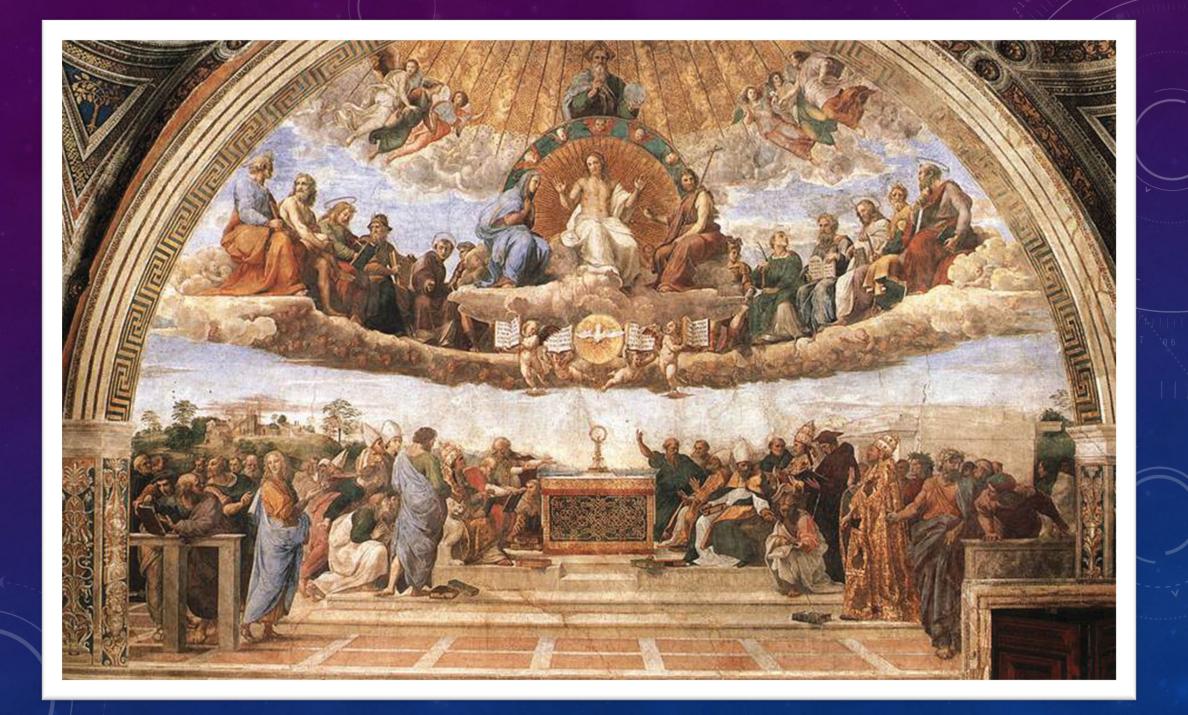


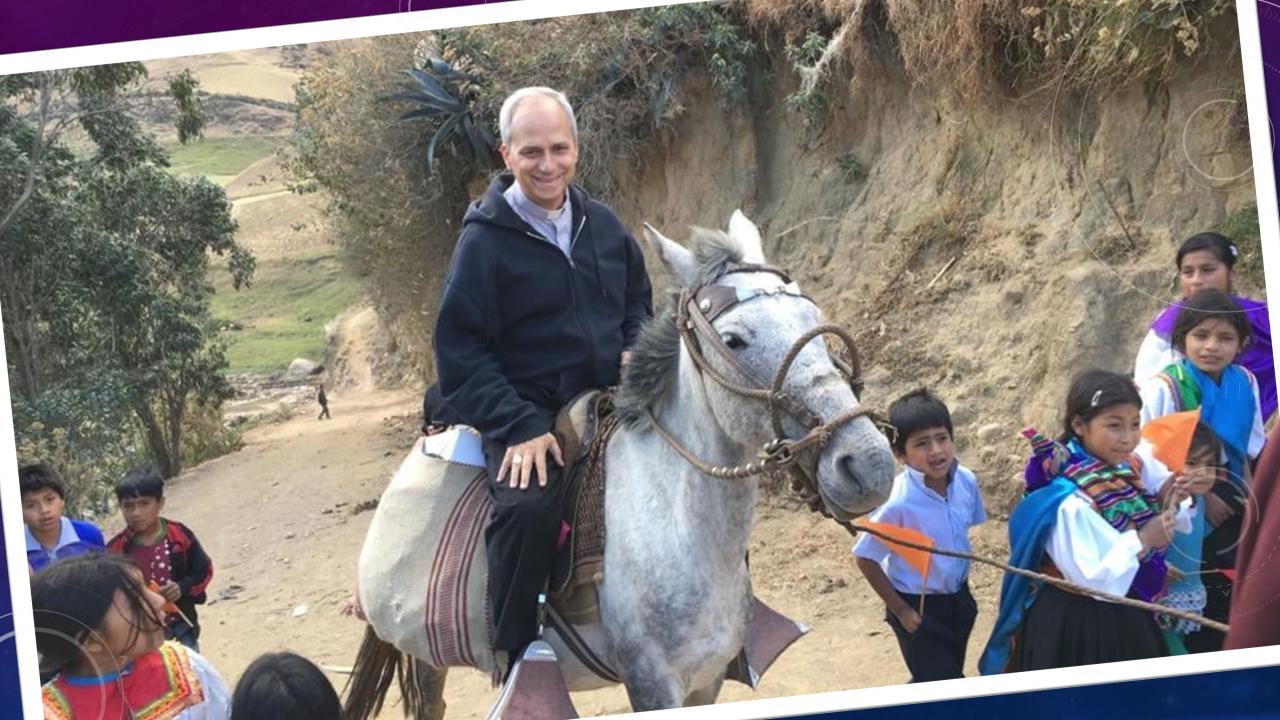
- "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest."
- Deuteronomy 6:4-7
- "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."
- Matthew 28:19-20
- "And you shall be My witnesses... to the ends of the earth."
- Acts 1:8
- "Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. The Church 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 [praise and worship Christ], which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection."
- Evangelization in the Modern World, 14 (St. Paul VI)

# The Call To Evangelize



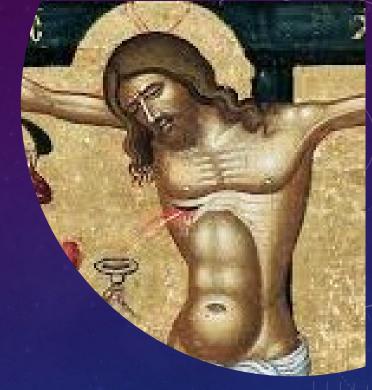
- "The lay faithful, precisely because they are members of the Church, have the vocation and mission of proclaiming the Gospel."
- Christ's Lay Faithful, 33 (St. John Paul II)
- Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.
  - Joy of the Gospel, 120 (Pope Francis)
- The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it . . . Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation.
  - Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1816







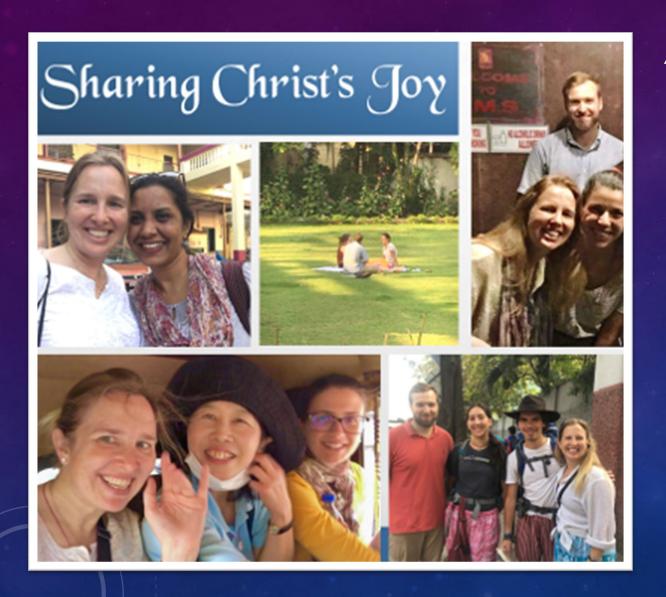




#### ECCLESIA AD EXTRA

YOU are the Church in the World

#### The Mission of the Laity



"If indeed, the parish is the Church placed in the neighborhoods of humanity, it lives and is at work through being deeply inserted in human society and intimately bound up with its aspirations and its dramatic events."

The Vocation And Mission Of The Lay Faithful, 27

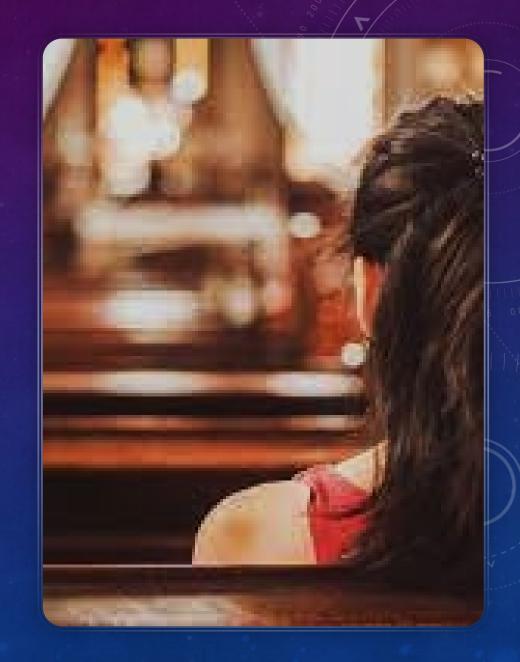
"Now, the laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can she become the salt of the earth."

- The Dogmatic Constitution On The Church, 33

#### **Vocation: Grace and Mission**

"Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries. Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small domestic church and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God. Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness. Viewed in this light, the Church is a vocational "symphony", with every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in "going forth" to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God."

-- 2023 World Day Of Prayer For Vocations





#### The Role of the Laity

"These lay faithful are by baptism **made** one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetical, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world." - Lumen Gentium 31

#### **Common Priesthood**

By partaking in the office of priest, the whole Church is called to be *lumen* gentium and bring the presence of God to all the world. We are to have that genuine love of God and genuine spirituality to have that intimate connection with God, and to spread this gift to all the nations.





#### The Role of the Laity

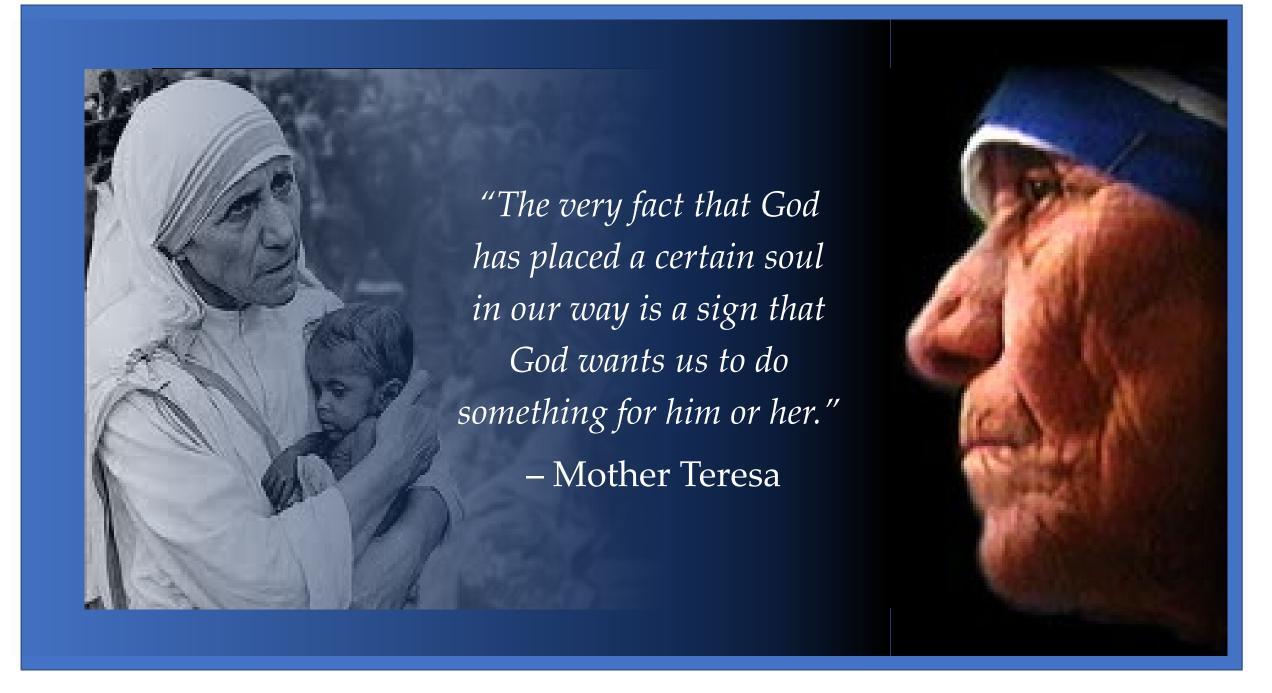
"By reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will. They live in the world, that is, they are **engaged in each and every** one of the world's occupations and callings and in the ordinary circumstances of social and family life which, as it were, constitute their very existence. There they are called by God that, being led by the spirit of the Gospel, they may contribute to the sanctification of the world, as from within like leaven, by fulfilling their own particular duties.

- Lumen Gentium 31



#### You shall be My witnesses ... to the end of the earth."







# Break







# What Evangelization Is NOT

- Forced or coerced
- Judgmental / holier than thou
- A monologue
- Mean-spirited
- Prideful
- Dismissive

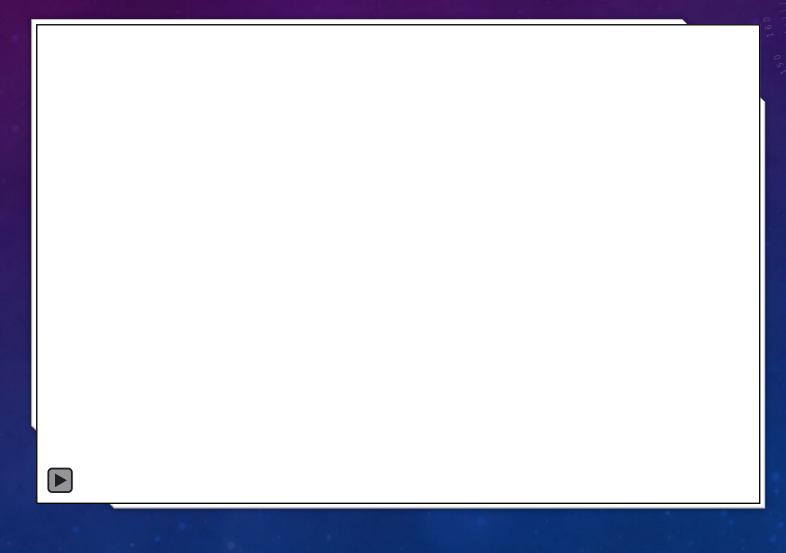




# Spiritual Essentials of Evangelization

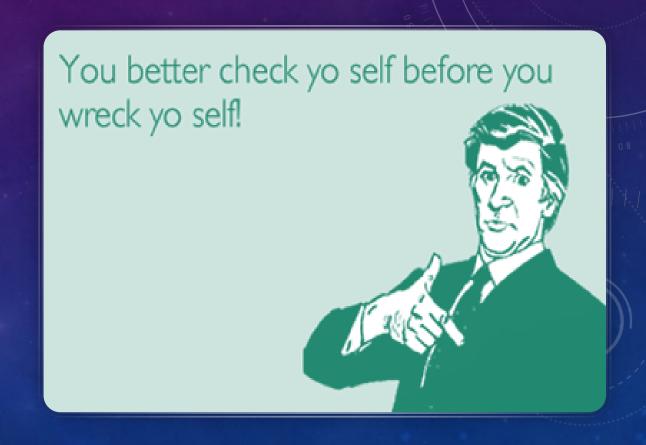
- Evangelization is the work of God.
   Salvation is a work of God's grace. We are called to cooperate with that grace.
- Don't let anxiety about lack of formation stop you from evangelizing.
   Evangelization itself is an act of faith.
- All Christians should renew their personal encounter with Jesus Christ.
- Evangelization is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus, those who are farthest from the Church.

### Obstacles To Evangelization

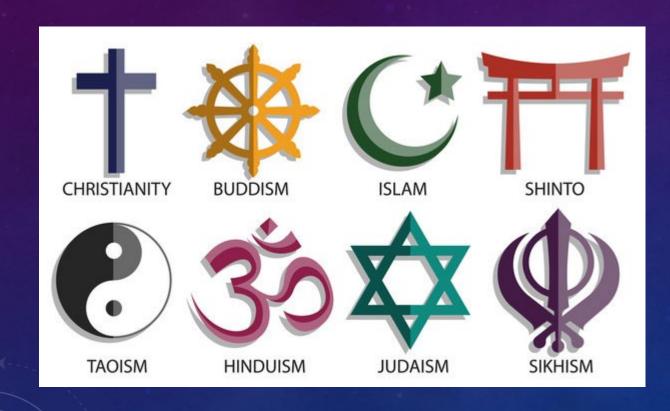


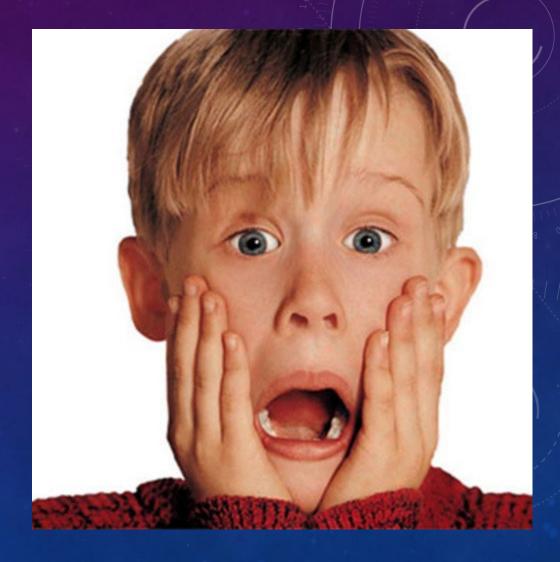
# Obstacle: I have to know the answer to every question of faith

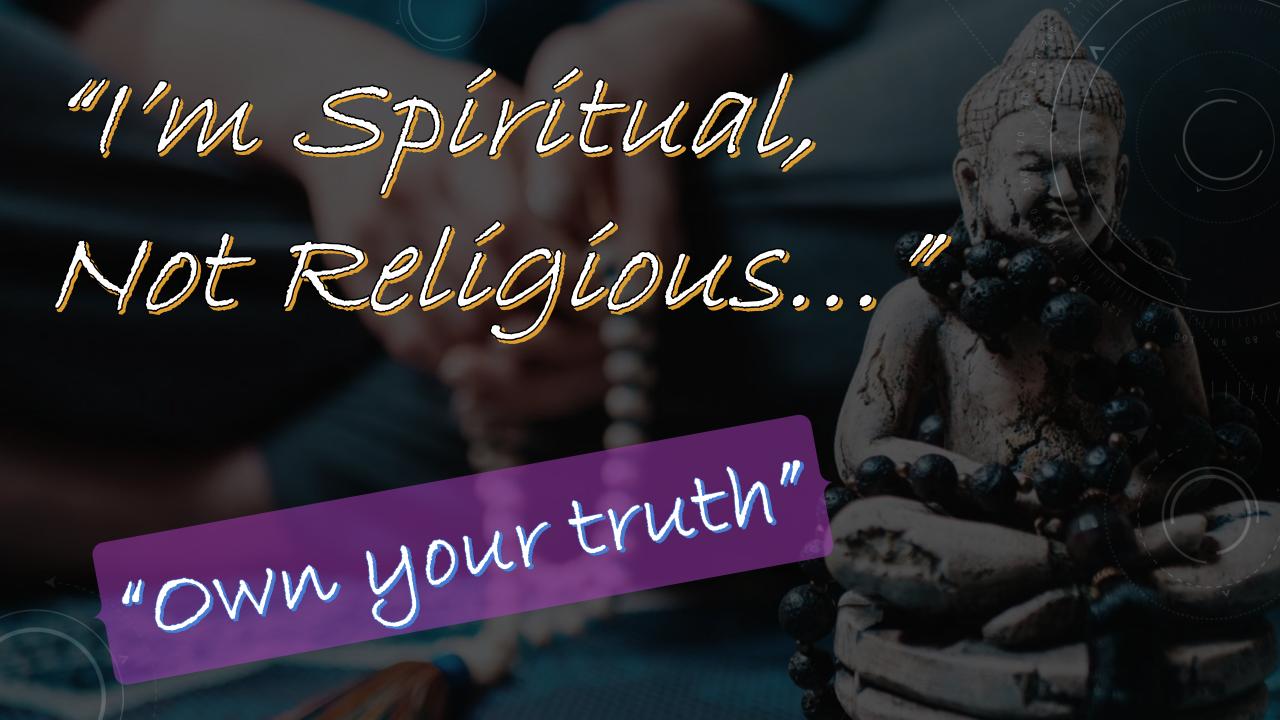
- "I don't know." is a very important phrase in evangelization. Use it.
- Follow up with, "but let me find out and get back to you." Then do your research.
- Do not try to guess and fake your way through theology.
- Remember: The Spirit is doing the greatest work.



# Obstacle: They already have a religion









## Concern about being persecuted / getting into trouble

When feudal Japanese government officials asked, "If we grant you life, will you renounce your faith?," St Lorenzo Ruiz responded:

"That I will never do, because I am a Christian, and I shall die for God, and for Him I will give many thousands of lives if I had them.

And so, do with me as you please."







# Obstacle: What if they reject me?

- Some people aren't ready. Show love.
- You're planting seeds and offering witness.
- Your witness and genuine care for the other is important.
- Better to suffer rejection and have tried than to not have tried at all.
   If we let fear control our actions, we would never get out of bed!
- Ask "What are your reasons for XXX?" Having them reflect on a deeper underlying issue or something from their past can be very revealing for both of you and give you insight on how best to continue to journey with them.
  - Not believing in God
  - Leaving the Church
  - Finding religion elsewhere
  - Not believing in the power of prayer
  - Feeling distant from God / Jesus



# Obstacle: What if they reject me?

- Pray for humility and light.
  - What are the reasons they were unwilling to listen?
  - What could you try different next time?
- Pray for them. Be patient. It doesn't have to be you to accompany them the whole way. Use well what you've been given and then offer it up to God.
- "If the world rejects you, remember that it hated Me first."
  - John 15:18
- Remember, this is God's work.





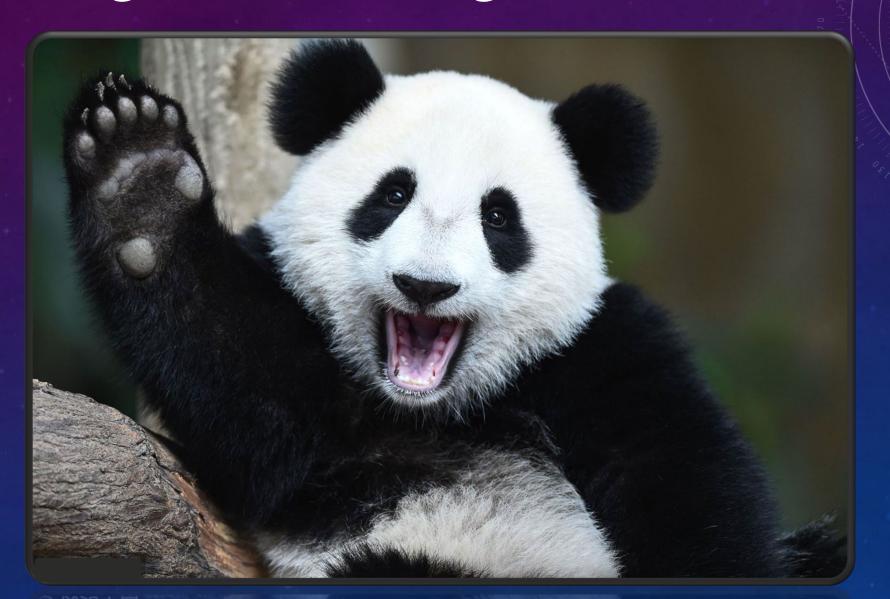




#### The Encounter



## Evangelization begins with hello!



### Evangelization begins with hello!



... but we cannot give what we don't have

## Our relationship with Jesus Christ is paramount!

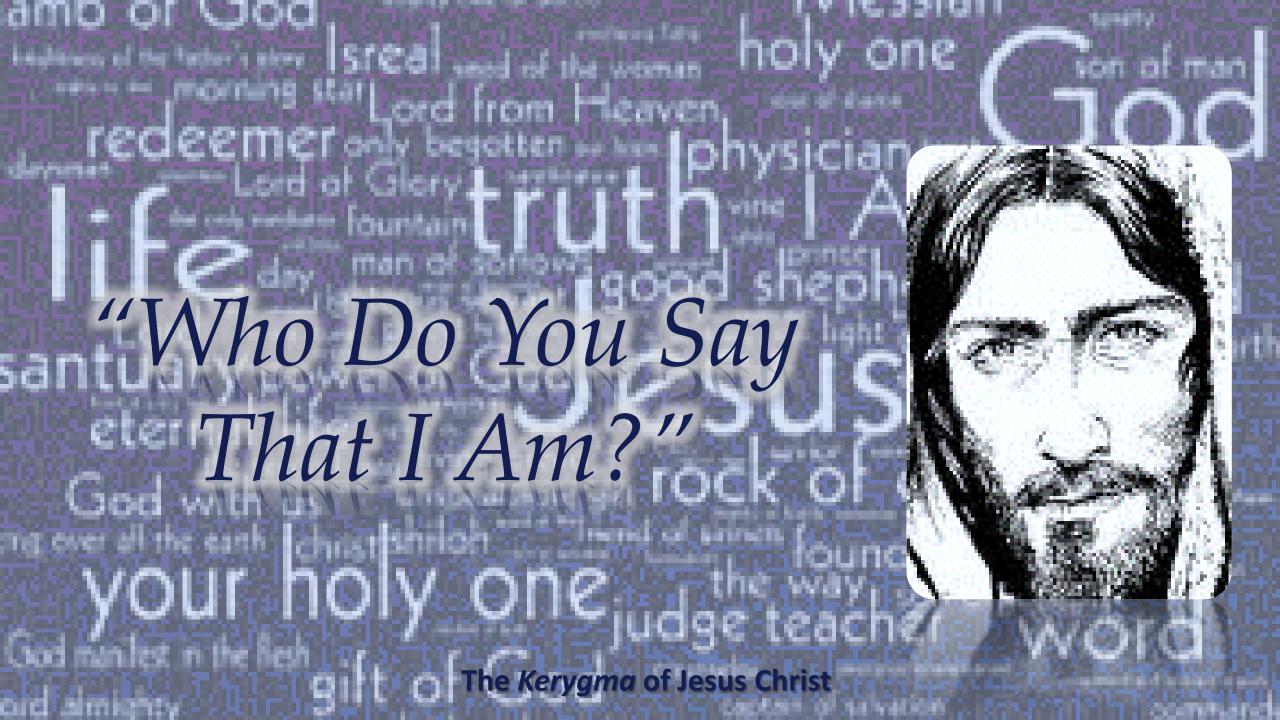






# Evangelization begins with Relationship

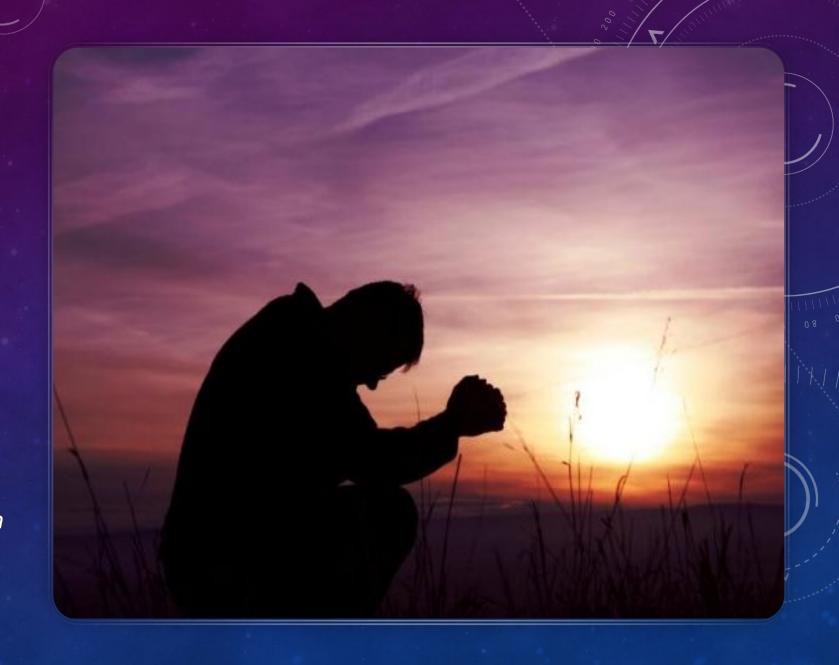
- Your relationship with Jesus Christ
  - A deep, personal relationship with Jesus and an intentional desire to trust in and follow His will for your life allows you to "radiate" the love, peace, energy and joy of Christ in all that you do.
- The relationship between you and the other child of God
- A relationship with that child of God and Jesus Christ alive within you



#### Forming a Relationship with Christ

"Dear brothers and sisters, this is true for every Christian: faith is first and foremost a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus, it is having an experience of His closeness, His friendship and His love. It is in this way that we learn to know Him ever better, to love Him and to follow Him more and more."

- Pope Benedict XVI (Oct. 21, 2009)





## Forming a Relationship with Christ

"Without a relationship to Christ, doctrine is just ideas and morality is only rules. Relationships give life."

- Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago



## Forming a Relationship with Christ

"The danger... is to know about Jesus without knowing Him, to talk about Jesus but not to Him, to listen to experts speak of Him without letting Him speak about Himself. A deep, personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ is the foundation of holiness!"

— Cardinal William Baum

"To know Jesus, to hear Jesus, to love Jesus, to trust Jesus, to obey Jesus, to share His life in the deepest fiber of our being, and then to serve Him — this is our goal."

Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ







Encountering Christ in the Sacraments

How Do We See Christ As

Our Eucharistic Lord?

"I am the Bread of Life"

- John 6



#### Reflect

- What does my relationship with Christ look like? Where do I want it to be?
- How has my relationship with Christ transformed my life and influenced the decisions I make?
- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ to another?
- What are some of the struggles you face in developing or maintaining a close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
- What has helped you form a deeper, personal relationship with our Lord?

## Witness, Relationship, Invitation



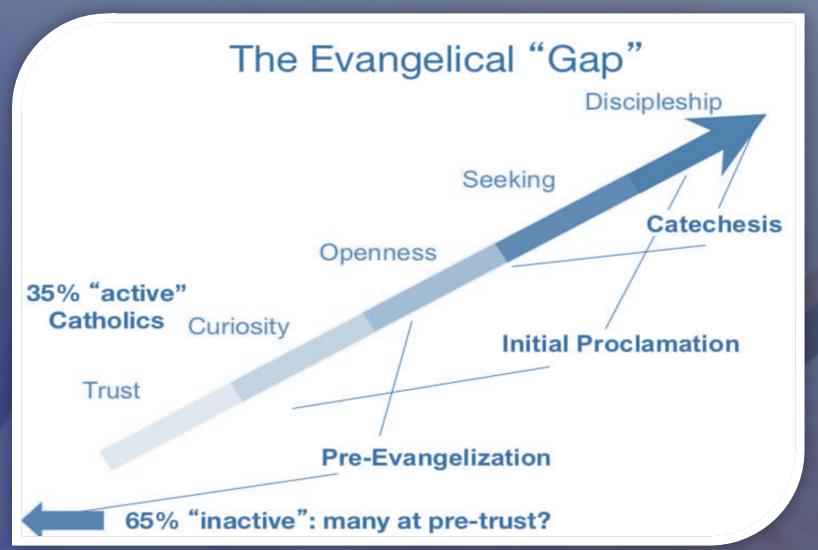




## Burning Man, Pubs & Walmart... Meeting People Where They Are At



#### The Thresholds of Conversion Meeting People Where They Are At



#### How We Can Help Others Encounter Jesus

- Approach others with reverence
  - Meet people where they are at
- Share your personal experience of Christ in your own words
  - "Who do you say that I am?" What is your lived experience of the Risen Christ?
- Exercise your charisms
  - Charisms are channels of God's love and provision for others
- Help others encounter the Church



#### The Joy of the Gospel

The JOY of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness.

With Christ JOY is constantly born anew.

I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this JOY, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.

I can say that the most beautiful and natural expressions of JOY which I have seen in my life were in poor people who had little to hold on to.

I also think of the real JOY shown by others who, even amid pressing professional obligations, were able to preserve, in detachment and simplicity, a heart full of faith.

In their own way, all these instances of JOY flow from the infinite love of God, who has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ.





#### Radiating Christ's Joy

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer & petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

**Rejoice always.** Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

#### How to Engage in Encounter

Warmth

Genuineness



Openness Respect

LOVE

Compassion

Understanding





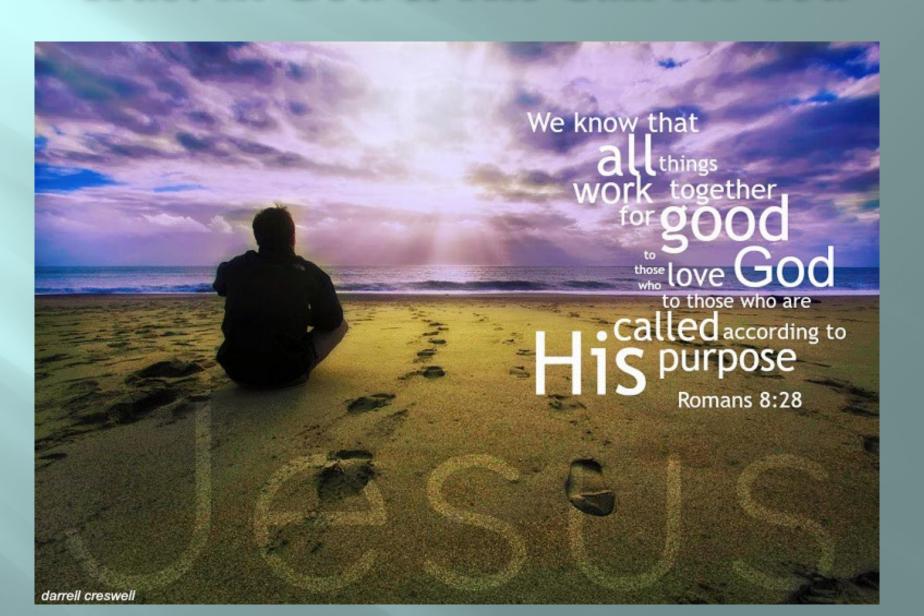
Revealing Christ



#### Witnessing Christ in Spite of Myself



#### Trust in God & His Call for You



#### Your Personal Vocation

Your calling in Christ is a supernatural mystery that emerges from a sustained encounter with Christ, leading to a life of intentional discipleship that builds upon our natural qualities but carries us far beyond what we could have imagined.

"Simon, the fisherman, before his meeting with Christ, however thoroughly he might have searched within himself, could not possibly have found a trace of Peter."

-- Hans Urs von Balthasar



#### Listening with Love



#### Communication





Learning to listen patiently with empathy is an important part of communication. Validate their emotions, even if you don't agree with their viewpoint.

Pope Francis speaks of the importance of patience and understanding in *Spes non Confundit*.

#### Communication



Really try to hear and understand the other person from their point of view. Listen and validate their emotions before responding. Try to come to a mutual understanding that you can build upon, regardless of who is "right."

 Hint: Trying to fix the problem rather than providing emotional validation is not listening! Talking over someone is not listening! Disregarding what they said is not listening!



#### Validating





#### Approach

- Approach the person(s) in a friendly, nonthreatening manner.
- Connect with them in a natural and respectful way
  - Often, a simple "Hello/Hey, how are you?" will suffice.
- Ask open questions to gently encourage them to share about themselves or what's going on in their life in greater depth.
- Allow them to drive the conversation initially.
   Don't force the conversation or have an agenda.
   Allow it to unfold naturally.



#### The Encounter

- Actively listen to them
- Try to empathize with them and understand what they're dealing with and where they're at spiritually
- Do not be judgmental
- Be genuine
- Validate their emotions
- Be willing to be open and vulnerable yourself
- Just by patiently talking with genuine care, and showing empathy while actively listening to someone, you are already providing an active witness of God's love.
- Pray to the Holy Spirit before, during, and after the encounter
- Seek to follow up





# SMILE!! Radiate the Light of Christ!









#### Some Helpful Hints

- Smile & Radiate the Light of Christ
- Meet people where they are at
- Approach with reverence
- Listen with understanding and respect
- Ask open questions
- Use empathy
- Validate their feelings
- Discover & Reveal Christ in the Other
- Be open to the Holy Spirit at work within you
- Share your story

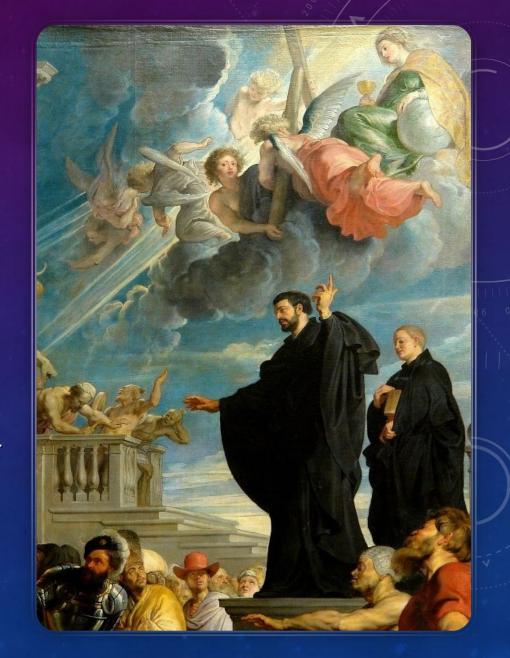


When trying to evangelize, no tool is more effective than that of personal witness.

Humbly sharing our own struggles which have been overcome by God's great love and mercy can soften even the hardest and most stubborn of hearts.

People can argue with points of doctrine, but no one can argue with a personal testimony!

- St. Francis Xavier



# Break





## **Evangelization** in the Parish

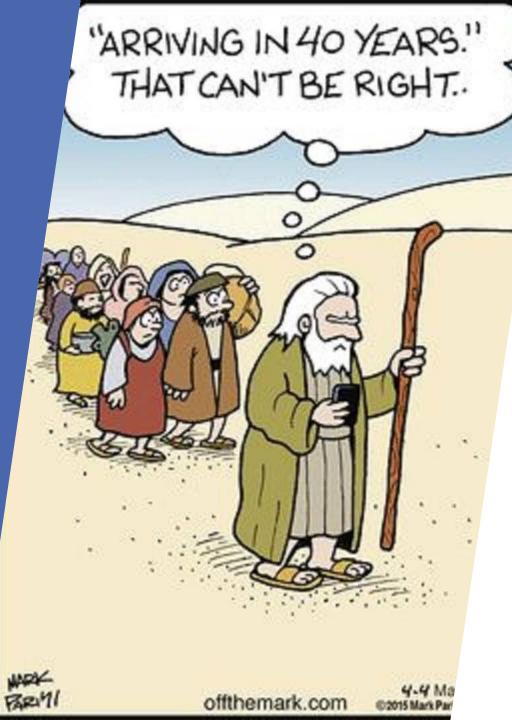
- Recognizing, engaging, and supporting the Intentional Disciples in our midst
- Enlightening, forming, and empowering, especially through preaching, Catholics at every stage (and appropriately for that stage) of their faith journey to:
  - draw closer to Christ through prayer, study, service, worship, sacraments, sacrificial offering
  - grow in the knowledge of their faith
  - discern their unique calling in Christ
  - actively pursue their call to sainthood
- Ministries around Evangelical formation and support
  - Dedicated prayer team
  - Faith formation (equipping for greater witness)
  - Outreach
  - Hospitality that truly welcomes and engages
  - Sharing of personal and ministerial testimonies
  - Awareness of areas of evangelization
- Collaboration with other parishes & faith communities
- Always striving / fight complacency
- Growth in virtue, sacrificial love, witness to hope

How do you see
yourself as an
Ambassador of
Christ?



How do you see your parish as an Ambassador of Christ in your local community?





#### So where to next?

- Pray
- Evaluate current situation
- Assess your resources
- Goals beginning with prayer, preaching, and identification of and engagement with the intentional disciples in your midst
- Based on your resources, who can you invite in, and who can you reach out to for support? May require a Parish Culture Shift:
  - Emphasize the importance of asking for help
  - Recognize that current volunteers may not always be the right people for the mission
  - Invite and challenge new leaders to sacrifice their time and talents to foster growth in the parish

- Discussion of concrete next steps using SMART goals
- Pray



#### Prayer of Evangelization and Witness

O Precious Lord,
Through the gift of Your grace
and the special way You have called
me

Grant me to be
a bold and humble witness
of Your Truth & Love
to all those in my midst today.

Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.