

Evangelization: Explanation of the Essentials

Premise: Evangelization is sharing the *Good News* with others.

The Good News is that Jesus Christ is truly God, he suffered, died, and rose from the dead to save us from our sins and bring us back into relationship with the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. Evangelization is a Catholic thing

- Called for by Jesus
- Focused on by the Vatican II
- Continually focused on by our most recent popes – *please see attached list of ecclesial quotes*

2. Evangelization on Pentecost

- Everyone wakes up to find the Apostles and disciples enthusiastically, perhaps even fanatically, proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord.
- Their enthusiasm is so dramatic, that Peter has to stand up and explain to the hearers that these men are not drunk.
- Something so amazing, so unexpected, had happened to these men that they had to get out of their homes and grab everyone's attention to tell them about this Good News
- What is the essence of the message? That Jesus, whom you killed, God has raised from the dead and made the Lord! The Resurrection and Lordship of Jesus Christ is the essence of the message.
- What they said with an enthusiasm bordering on drunkenness is that the crucified Jesus had risen bodily from death through the power of God—and that this fact had changed everything.

3. Why is this Good News?

- If Jesus is raised from the dead, then he is God. We can thus go to him to find out everything about ourselves: why we are here and what will happen to us when we die.
- If Jesus is raised from the dead, then he has conquered death. This means that death will no longer reign over us.
- If Jesus is raised from the dead, then we must follow what he says. He invites each of us to give our lives to him in the Church

4. Do you believe that Jesus is raised from the dead?

- If you do not, then you are not a Christian
- If you do, then how can you fail to go out and tell everyone you meet about the Resurrection? How can you not evangelize?

5. Evangelization – Who? Me?

- The first Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit
- We can gain empowerment by asking for more of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Pentecost week is a great week to *pray* for more of the Holy Spirit in our lives

6. Practical Pointers on Evangelization

- *Pray*
- *Continue to study Scripture and the teachings of the Church* in the Catechism
- *Ask the Lord for opportunities* to witness to others about your faith
- *Ask the Lord to give you HIS courage, joy, wisdom, words and humility.*
- *Be a friend* – draw people with genuine friendship and warmth.
- *Share what God has done in your life* – how has he worked in difficult times and in joyful times.
- *Offer to pray for people* and then keep up with them to see how they are doing.