

**Evangelizing
Through
Adult Faith Formation!**

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee
Year of *Faith Engaged!*
"Convening of Leaders"

Sharing Christ's Message
Since 1559

Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community (1990) #5 and #6

- **The development of initiatives on behalf of a new catechesis of adults in the local Churches manifested in:**
 - pastoral letters,
 - reflections and programs offered by experts and study centers,
 - the implementation of the RCIA and
 - a wide variety of other pastoral initiatives, all sustained by a truly ecclesial and missionary spirit.
- **The most notable developments are:**
 - the growth in the number of lay catechists, women and men, and
 - the fruitful and original activity of new groups, movements and associations.

Adult Catechesis in the Christian Community (1990) #5 and #6

- **Painfully aware of the limits and difficulties we face:**
 - the many adults who are not reached by any kind of catechesis,
 - Christian communities lacking in missionary spirit,
 - pastoral workers not sufficiently motivated by a sense of pastoral love and patience,
 - an inadequate catechesis which too often is not integrated into a broader program of evangelization, and
 - the lack in number and in preparation of catechists.
- **The Church makes a renewed call to all those most directly involved in the faith education of its members**
 - to increase their efforts to find *new* ways to reach those adults who have not been touched by the message of Christ, or
 - who having been evangelized, have left the Church.

American Catholics Today


- **6-10 % Core Catholics**
– regular Mass attendance and at least one other activity
- **35-45% Modal Catholics**
– attend Mass regularly but have no other contact
- **20-25% Marginal Catholics**
– rarely attend Mass
- **25-30% Dormant Catholics**
– simply disappear after Baptism

Ed. by William V. D'Antonio et al., 2007

Catholic Evangelization is...


Bringing the good news to others in every opportunity

- Living as a disciple of Christ
- Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others (in word & deed) and inviting them into a relationship with Jesus
- Making a life-giving difference in our own lives and in the lives of the larger community for Christ



The Holy Spirit is the Principal Agent!
"It's about invitation, not invasion!"
It's a life-long process...

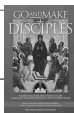
Evangelii Nuntiandi (1975)
On Evangelization in the Modern World



"We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the **essential mission of the Church.** It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. **Evangelizing** is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, **her deepest identity.** She **exists in order to evangelize...**"

(On Evangelization in the Modern World, 14)

Go and Make Disciples (1992)
The Three Goals



- **Goal 1: To live our faith fully**
"To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others."
- **Goal 2: To invite others**
"To invite all people in the U.S., whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith."
- **Goal 3: To transform society in Christ**
"To foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ."

Goal I – Live our Faith Fully

The strategy of this goal is to so deepen the sense of Scripture and sacrament that Catholics will pray more fully, and with a greater understanding of Christ's call, live as disciples at home, at work and in today's many cultural settings. This goal also seeks a greater openness to physical, mental and cultural diversity among Catholics.



Goal II – Invite Others

The strategy behind this goal is to create a more welcoming attitude toward others in our parishes so that people feel at home; next, to create an attitude of sharing faith and to develop greater skills to do this; then, to undertake activities to invite others to know the Catholic people better.



Bienvenido

Goal III – Transform Society in Christ

This goal requires the strategy of strengthening our everyday involvement with those in need, of reflecting on the workplace and media, and of encouraging Catholic involvement in areas of public policy as a way of having greater impact on society's values.



Assessing our Efforts

How do activities and ministries help us

- to live our faith fully and enthusiastically?
- to become more welcoming and inviting?
- to live as committed disciples in the world?

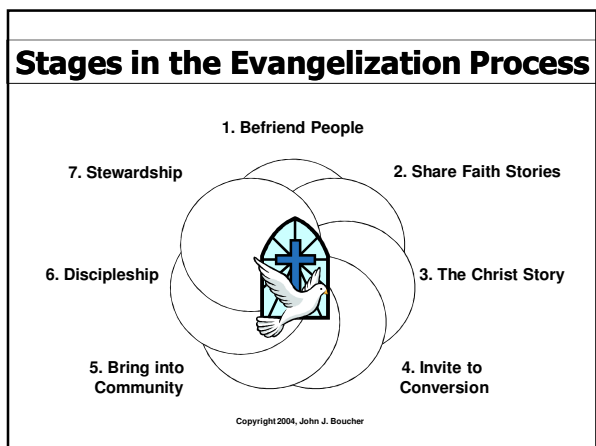


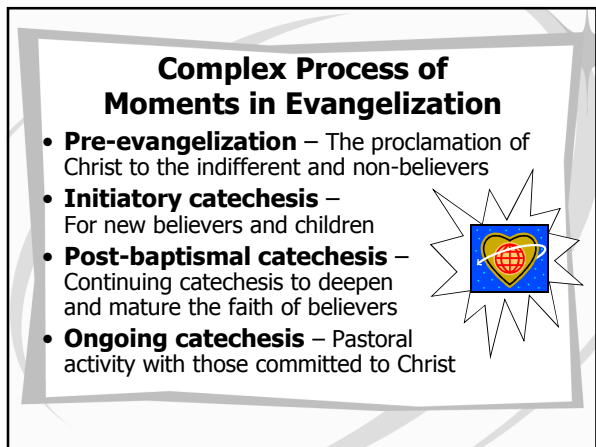
The Evangelizing Catholic, Frank P. DeSiano, C.S.P., 1998

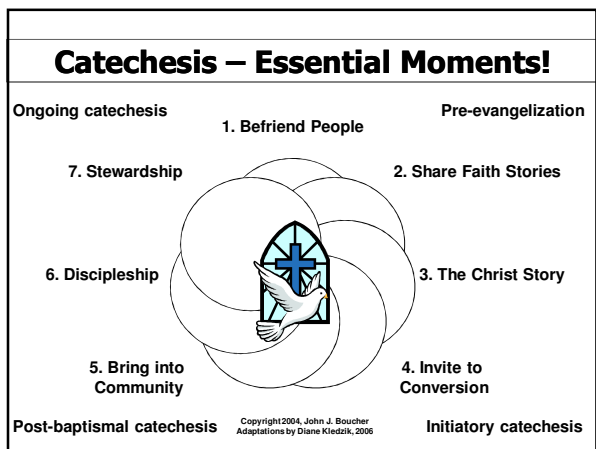
The Ordinary Life of Parish Evangelization & Faith Formation

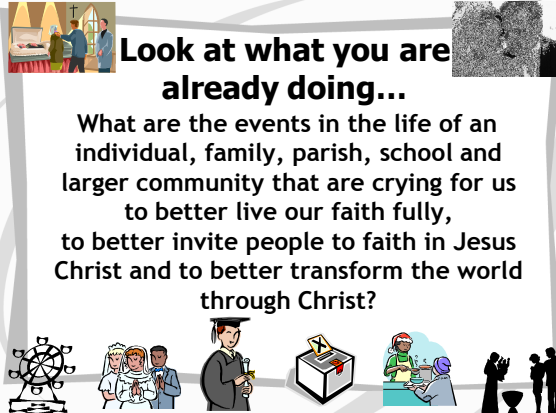
- Generally focused on Goal I and III.
- When parishioners see themselves as disciples and grow in involvement in faith, they find the stimulus to reach out to others.
- Goal II presumes that parishes are addressing Goal I and III.
- * Offer growth in the ordinary ways and provide direction for activities that are challenging – inviting, welcoming, mailing, home visiting.

Move from Maintenance to Mission!









Look at what you are already doing...

What are the events in the life of an individual, family, parish, school and larger community that are crying for us to better live our faith fully, to better invite people to faith in Jesus Christ and to better transform the world through Christ?

Pastoral Directives for Evangelization (NDC)

All parishes, in the efforts/resources they focus on the new evangelization in faith formation, should pursue:

1. Fostering in every believer an experience of personal conversion to Jesus Christ that leads to a personal renewal and greater participation in the Christian life in the Church.
2. Encouraging a greater knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Church.
3. Focusing their efforts and resources on the conversion and renewal of every parish especially through the RCIA.
4. Rededicating themselves to a liturgical renewal that develops a greater appreciation for the presence and power of Christ in the word of God and the sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist, and a stronger commitment to celebrating the Eucharist each Sunday.

Pastoral Directives for Evangelization (NDC)

5. Making the evangelical and social justice dimensions of the Sunday Eucharist more explicit.
6. Calling their people to a more effective integration of daily prayer in the lives, especially praying the Psalms and the Church's Liturgy of the Hours, contemplation of Christ's life through the Rosary and a greater reverence of the Eucharist through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
7. Ensuring that all Catholic institutions, especially parishes, are accessible and welcoming to all.

These pastoral directives for evangelization give catechesis/faith formation in the US a missionary dynamic that encourages us to continue to evangelize the culture, affirming what is compatible and challenging what is not.

National Directory for Catechesis, 2005, USCCB
