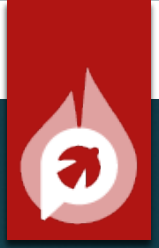




The Joy of the Gospel

DISCOVERING AND ARTICULATING GOOD NEWS

Prayer for Evangelization



Loving God, you called each of us by name, and gave your only Son to redeem us. In your faithfulness, you sent the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of Jesus among us. Open our hearts to Jesus. Give us the courage to speak his name to those who are close to us, and the generosity to share his love with those who are far away. We pray that every person throughout the world be invited to know and love Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. May they come to know his all-surpassing love. May that love transform every element of our society. Amen.

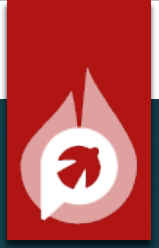


Scripture - Mark 8:27-31

Now Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They said in reply, “John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said to him in reply, “You are the Messiah.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.



Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbours or complete strangers. This is the informal preaching which takes place in the middle of a conversation, something along the lines of what a missionary does when visiting a home. (127)



Bring Jesus' Love

Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey. (127)



Kerygma

All Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the **kerygma**, which is reflected in and constantly illumines, the work of catechesis, thereby enabling us to understand more fully the significance of every subject which the latter treats. (165)





Kerygma

On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (161)



Kerygma

[I]t is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment. For this reason too, “the priest – like every other member of the Church – ought to grow in awareness that he himself is continually in need of being evangelized”.



Baptism

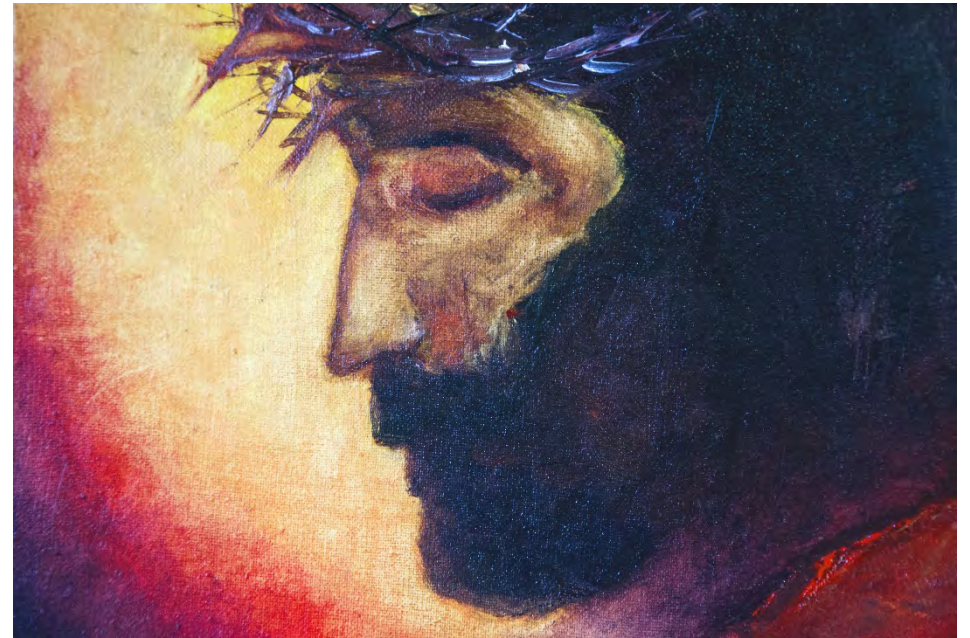
In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. (120)





Paschal Mystery

- ▶ Jesus died for us.
- ▶ Jesus died to rise from the dead for us.
- ▶ Jesus died and rose to send the Holy Spirit upon us.



Jesus Rises to
Give Us the
Holy Spirit



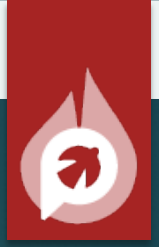


The Good News Transmitted

The salvation which God offers us is the work of his mercy. No human efforts, however good they may be, can enable us to merit so great a gift. God, by his sheer grace, draws us to himself and makes us one with him.

He sends his Spirit into our hearts to make us his children, transforming us and enabling us to respond to his love by our lives. The Church is sent by Jesus Christ as the sacrament of the salvation offered by God.

Through her evangelizing activity, she cooperates as an instrument of that divine grace which works unceasingly and inscrutably. (112)



Spend a Few Moments

- ▶ Try to put into words how the Gospel and your faith became so important in your own life?
- ▶ What would you say is the most important aspect of your faith for you today?
- ▶ How does the Spirit enliven you?



Kerygma

- ▶ “Kerygma” means the basic proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel.
- ▶ All of us experience this Good News in one way or another.
- ▶ By our baptisms, we have been called to bring Good News to others.

How has Good News come to me?
How do I put it into words?

Kerygma



Jesus came to die and rise to save us from sin. By his death, he has won God's forgiveness by paying the price. This brings us eternal life through the Spirit.

Sin has brought brokenness to human experience from the beginning. Jesus came to share in that brokenness by dying with us. His rising heals that brokenness and makes us whole in the Spirit.

God created to make us part of the Kingdom. Sin disrupted God's plan. Jesus comes to complete God's plan by dying and rising so we might experience life in the Kingdom of God in the Spirit.

Sin brought us far from God. In Jesus, God draws close. By dying and rising, Jesus shows God's saving power in our lives in the Spirit by bringing us into union.



Spend a few moments

- ▶ How do I “explain the hope” that is within me?
- ▶ How might I describe what God’s grace has been in my life?
- ▶ What is the way God’s grace has become clearest to me?



Sharing with Others

In this preaching, which is always respectful and gentle, the first step is personal dialogue, when the other person speaks and shares his or her joys, hopes and concerns for loved ones, or so many other heartfelt needs. Only afterwards is it possible to bring up God's word, perhaps by reading a Bible verse or relating a story, but always keeping in mind the fundamental message: the personal love of God who became man, who gave himself up for us, who is living and who offers us his salvation and his friendship. (128)



This message has to be shared humbly as a testimony on the part of one who is always willing to learn, in the awareness that the message is so rich and so deep that it always exceeds our grasp. At times the message can be presented directly, at times by way of a personal witness or gesture, or in a way which the Holy Spirit may suggest in that particular situation. (128)



If it seems prudent and if the circumstances are right, this fraternal and missionary encounter could end with a brief prayer related to the concerns which the person may have expressed. In this way they will have an experience of being listened to and understood; they will know that their particular situation has been placed before God, and that God's word really speaks to their lives. (128)



Pope Francis' process of sharing faith

- ▶ Person-to-person dialogue.
- ▶ Begin with the other person.
- ▶ Listen to the other person to hear the heart, the soul.
- ▶ Speak from your experience.
- ▶ Let faith spring naturally, not manipulatively, from your experience.
- ▶ Try to build a bridge, a bond.
- ▶ If appropriate, offer a short prayer or scripture memory.
- ▶ Offer to continue the exchange.



Exercise

How might you build a common space to dialogue for someone who:

- ▶ Was angry at a priest, pastoral leader, or parish?
- ▶ Brags about never going to church?
- ▶ Claims to be an atheist?
- ▶ Feels too full of shame to go near a church?



Going Forth

Being Church means being God's people, in accordance with the great plan of his fatherly love. This means that we are to be God's leaven in the midst of humanity. It means proclaiming and bringing God's salvation into our world, which often goes astray and needs to be encouraged, given hope and strengthened on the way. The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel. (114)





Follow-up

- ▶ Think about how you express the Good News of God in your own life. What are the things that affect how you express it? From your own experiences? From your education?
- ▶ How do you think people today would most readily hear the Good News of Jesus?
- ▶ How do you think your parish communicates that Good News?
- ▶ Meditate this week on the Scripture and how you would say who Jesus is (Mark 8:27-31)

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