

Break out for Priests, Deacons and Religious
“Encounter the Joy of the Gospel”
The Diocesan Five Year Pastoral Plan on Evangelization

- I. Key Points from “The Joy of the Gospel” as it applies to “Encounter the Joy of the Gospel.”
 - A. An ecclesial renewal which cannot be deferred (27 – 33)
 1. The conversion of heart to Jesus must be mission driven rather than for self-preservation of the Church.
 2. The parish as a “community of communities” is a privileged place to make them “environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.
 3. The “Plan” is part of the diocese and the bishop’s responsibility to foster this missionary communion in the diocesan Church.
 4. Pope Francis invites us to abandon the complacent attitude that says, “We have always done it this way.” “I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities.”
 - 5. Discussion Questions**
 - a. How has your parish attempted to catechize the parish as to its basic missionary call?**
 - b. What new opportunities has your parish created for people to encounter the Risen Lord?**
 - c. How could we pass on this sense urgency spoken about by our Holy Father to our people?**
 - B. Temptations faced by Pastoral Workers 76-109
 1. We have to create spaces for pastoral workers can seek help and healing for their own spiritual wounds.
 2. Pastoral workers are increasingly plagued by an “inordinate concern for their personal freedom and relaxation, which leads them to see their work as a mere appendage to their life, as if it were not part of their very identity.”
 3. Individualism, a crisis of identity and a cooling of fervor are three evils which fuel one another.
 4. The culture can cause us to hide or question our Christian identity and convictions. The task of evangelization therefore becomes forced and little time or energy is devoted to it.

5. Practical relativism and a lifestyle that leads to an attachment to financial security, or power, or human glory at all costs can rob us of missionary enthusiasm.
6. Trained Catechists sometimes are unwilling to persevere in the work for years and Priests are becoming obsessed with protecting their free time as if the task of evangelization was a dangerous poison rather than a joyful response to God's love.
7. The problem is not always an excess of activity, but rather activity undertaken badly with no adequate spirituality undergirding the action. This gives rise to pastoral acedia and unbearable fatigue.
8. Disillusioned with reality, with the Church and with themselves they experience the temptation to cling to faint melancholy.
9. The pope warns us not to give in to defeatism which "turns us into querulous and disillusioned pessimists, "sourpusses". We have to be convinced of victory before we go off to battle.
10. Where the gospel has been excluded there is a type of desertification. In the desert people of faith are needed to become living sources of water from which others can drink.
11. Take advantage of new ways to communicate so that we do not become self-enclosed. The path of encounter and solidarity is liberating and hope filled.
12. We also have to be aware of a consumerist spirituality that does not adequately respond to people's thirst for God.
13. There is a danger of seeking human glory and personal well-being rather than the Lord's glory. There are two temptations in this area, one is Gnosticism (a subjective faith), the other is a neopelagianism that trusts only in their own powers and feel superior to others "because they observe certain rules or remain intransigently faithful to a particular Catholic style from the past." This can lead to a narcissistic and authoritarian elitism.
14. Ostentatious preoccupation for the liturgy, for doctrine or Church prestige without any concern that the Gospel has a real impact on God's people is evidence of "insidious worldliness".

15. Discussion questions.

- a. **Have we created spaces for pastoral workers can seek help and healing for their own spiritual wounds?**
- b. **How can we work together to encourage each other in Missionary zeal?**
- c. **Instead of confessing the sins of others how do we address the dangers to which we ourselves are prone?**

C. Importance of the Homily (135-162)

1. Preaching should be a key encounter with the Spirit and Christ for the people and for the preacher.
2. Preaching is not a meditation, catechesis, or an entertainment. It is a dialogue of God with his people and ordered to “a life-changing Communion with Christ in the Eucharist.
3. It “should be brief and avoid taking on the semblance of a speech or lecture.”
4. The preacher must know and love the heart of their people in order to both learn from them and to know what to say to them and how to say it.
5. The preacher should encourage closeness to his people by “the warmth of his tone of voice, the unpretentiousness of his manner of speaking, and the joy of his gestures even when he has a difficult word to speak.
6. Like Jesus the preacher should strive to communicate the joy of Christ in talking with the people.
7. “In the homily, truth goes hand in hand with beauty and goodness. Far from dealing with abstract truths or cold syllogisms, it communicates the beauty of images used by the Lord to encourage the practice of good. The memory of the faithful, like that of Mary, should overflow with the wondrous things done by God. Their hearts, growing in hope from the joyful practical exercise of love which they have received, will sense that each word of Scripture is a gift before it is a demand.”
8. The preacher is an intermediary between two hearts that who are in dialogue – the Lord and his people – and each one may choose how to take up the conversation.
9. To preach in this way the preacher’s heart must be on fire, enlightened by the fullness of revelation and “the path traveled God’s word in the heart of the Church and our faithful people throughout history.”
10. The task of the preacher is to help people live within the embrace of the Father in their baptism and the embrace of the merciful Father who awaits us in glory.
11. Prolonged time for study, prayer, reflection and pastoral creativity is essential for preparation of a homily. “A preacher who does not prepare is not “spiritual”; he is dishonest and irresponsible with the gifts he has received.
12. After prayer the next step in preparation is reverent and loving study of the Scripture. We should be willing to take time on this task.

13. The preacher should seek to understand the central message of the text and not use it in a way that is different from that central message. Let God's word speak and not the preacher's thoughts about that word.
14. The central message of the texts needs to be related to the teaching of the entire Bible as handed on by the Church.
15. We must allow our own hearts and lives to be touched by the text.
16. "People prefer to listen to witnesses: they 'thirst of authenticity' and 'call for evangelizers to speak of a God whom they themselves know and are familiar with, as if they were seeing him'."
17. The preacher must be ready to acknowledge his poverty, but be committed to growing in his commitment to Christ.
18. Lectio Divina is an essential way of praying the text and applying it to the life of the preacher.
19. The preacher contemplates not only the word but also his people. He needs to link the word to his people's concrete situation.
20. The preacher needs to develop a broad sensitivity to what really affects other people's lives. "Let us also keep in mind that we should never respond to questions that nobody asks."
21. Good structure is important to communicate the content of evangelization. "Speak concisely, say much in few words. (Sir 32:8)
22. Use images in preaching and how to appeal to image. An attractive image makes the message seem familiar, close to home, practical and related to everyday life.
23. Use words that people understand. Our language should be simple, the homily having a thematic unity, clear order and a correlation between the sentences, so that the people can follow the preacher easily and grasp his line of argument.
24. A homily should be positive, suggesting what we can do better, and pointing towards the future and hope.
25. Priests, deacons and the laity might gather periodically to discover resources which can make preaching more attractive.
26. The preacher must be committed to his own ongoing formation and maturation, not only in doctrine but also in living out the great commandment of love God and our neighbors.

27. Discussion Questions

- a. **What could we do in our parishes to deepen our homiletic preparation?**
- b. **What could we do as a diocese to better resource our homilests?**

D. Catechetical Ministry (163-175)

1. The first proclamation is that “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.”
2. All Christian Formation is meant to enter more deeply into that first proclamation. God’s love precedes any moral or religious obligation. The evangelizer must foster openness to the message by their approachability, readiness for dialogue, patience, a warm and welcome which is non-judgmental.
3. Continued work need to be done on a catechesis involving the entire community and its use of symbols and integration of the person into the communal journey of hearing and response.
4. The way of beauty should be encouraged as a way to transmit the faith.
5. The moral component of catechesis is strengthened by appealing to attractiveness of the ideal of a live of wisdom, self-fulfillment and enrichment. Rejection of the evils that endanger such a life are better understood.
6. We must be seen as accompanying people in their way of life on the road to Christ.
7. The art of listening makes possible a closeness without which a genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur. In doing so we can introduce people step by step to a full appropriation of the mystery.
8. Missionary disciples accompany missionary disciples.
9. Evangelization demands familiarity with the word for every believer and dioceses, parishes, and Catholic associations should provide serious, ongoing study of the bible, while encouraging its prayerful individual and communal reading.

10. Discussion Questions

- a. **How might we work together to develop a catechesis that is rooted in mystagogy, the way of beauty, compassionate listening and accompaniment, and scripture?**

Church Documents

Pope Francis on Evangelization

- *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) - Apostolic Exhortation on the 2012 Synod of Bishops
- *Lumen Fidei* (The Light of Faith) - First Encyclical of Pope Francis (2013)

Pope Benedict XVI on Evangelization

- Porta Fidei - Apostolic Letter for the Year of Faith (2011)
- Ubicumque et Semper - Motu Proprio Establishing the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization (2010)
- The New Evangelization: Building a Civilization of Love - Address by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to Catechists (2000)

- 2012 Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith
- Instrumentum Laboris for the The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith - Summary of Responses for the 2012 Synod of Bishops (2012)
- Lineamenta for the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith - Organizational document for the 2012 Synod of Bishops (2011)
- Address to New Evangelizers (2011)
- Homily at Mass with New Evangelizers (2011)

Blessed John Paul II on Evangelization

- Novo Millennio Ineunte - Apostolic Letter at the Close of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 (2001)
- Ecclesia in America - Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Bl. John Paul II on the Encounter with the Living Christ and the Way to Conversion, Communion & Solidarity in America (1999)
- Tertio Millennio Adveniente - Apostolic Letter on Preparation for the Jubilee of the Year 2000 (1994)
- Redemptoris Missio - Encyclical of Bl. John Paul II on the Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate (1990)
- Christifideles Laici - Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Bl. John Paul II on the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World (1988)
- Catechesi Tradendae - Apostolic Exhortation of Bl. John Paul II on Catechesis in Our Time (1979)

Pope Paul VI & the Second Vatican Council on Evangelization

- Evangelii Nuntiandi - Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelism (1975)
- Ad Gentes - Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church (1965)
- Lumen Gentium - Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (1964)

Suggested Resources:

New Evangelization Resources from the USCCB

- http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/index.cfm?utm_source=The+Religion+Teacher+Newsletter+List&utm_campaign=f34e20bfa4-Catechetical+Sunday+2012+9-14-12&utm_medium=email
- www.usccb.org/beliefs.../new-evangelization
- [USCCB, Symposium on the Intellectual Tasks of the New Evangelization](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization)

Other Dioceses

- Archdiocese for Military Services, USA: milarch.org. Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization: Archdiocesan Religion Curriculum Guide
- Diocese of Raleigh: www.dioceseofraleigh.org [Evangelization](http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/evangelization)
- Archdiocese of New York: <http://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/new-evangelization.html>

Series/Companies/Publishers

- [Coming Home Network International](http://www.chnetwork.org) The Coming Home Network www.chnetwork.org.
- [Catholics Come Home](http://www.CatholicsComeHome.org) [www.Catholics Come Home.org](http://www.CatholicsComeHome.org)
- [Landings International](http://www.paulist.org/landings) www.paulist.org/landings
- [Alpha for Catholics](http://www.alphausa.org) www.alphausa.org
- [Busted Halo](http://www.bustedhalo.com/) www.bustedhalo.com/
- [The Catholicism Series](http://www.catholicismnewevangelization.com/)
- www.catholicismnewevangelization.com/
- [Lighthouse Catholic Media](http://www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org) www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org
- [Catholic Media House videos on Vimeo](http://www.vimeo.com/catholicmedia) www.vimeo.com/catholicmedia

Resources from Colleges-Universities-Organizations

- Boston College New Evangelization Resource
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/stm/evedvnts/CampusEvents/Resources/new_evangelization.html
- Notre Dame University-Church Life: A Journal for the New Evangelization
<http://icl.nd.edu/church-life-a-journal-for-the-new-evangelization/>

Specific Articles worth reading:

- USCCB – Reawakening Enthusiasm in the Baptized for the Gospel Mandate
- <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/upload/Reawakening-Enthusiasm-in-the-Baptized-for-the-Gospel-Mandate-8-10-12.pdf>
- USCCB – Building Cultural Competencies
- <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/upload/Building-Cultural-Competencies.pdf>
- USCCB – A Review of Best Evangelization Methods and Resources Available for Parish Outreach Efforts
- <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/new-evangelization/upload/a-review-of-the-best-ev-krisak.pdf>
- USCCB – Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States
- <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/evangelization/go-and-make-disciples/go-and-make-disciples-a-national-plan-and-strategy-for-catholic-evangelization-in-the-united-states.cfm>

Other Resources

- Word on Fire, Catholicism, The New Evangelization DVD
<http://catholicismnewevangelization.com/resources>
- Catholic Apostolate Center <http://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/new-evangelization.html>
- National Conference for Catechetical Leadership 21st Century Catholic Evangelization
<http://www.21stcenturycatholicsevangalization.org/>
- The Evangelical Catholic <http://www.evangelicalcatholic.org/>
- Paulist Evangelization Ministries <http://www.pemdc.org/>
- Word on Fire <http://www.wordonfire.org/>