

FAITH FORMATION AND EVANGELIZATION INTERNET RESOURCES

SYNOD OF BISHOPS - XIII ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY - THE NEW EVANGELIZATION FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH - INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS
VATICAN CITY, 2012

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20120619_instrumentum-xiii_en.html

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION EVANGELII GAUDIUM OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS TO THE BISHOPS, CLERGY, CONSECRATED PERSONS AND THE LAY FAITHFUL ON THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL IN TODAY'S WORLD, 2013

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html

The joy of the gospel

- I. A joy ever new, a joy which is shared
- II. The delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing
- III. The new evangelization for the transmission of the faith

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (1990)

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>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (1999)

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States - <http://store.usccb.org/our-hearts-were-burning-within-us-p/7-222.htm>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2012) Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis
Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization - <http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/disciples-called-to-witness/>

The Office of Pastoral Planning of the Archdiocese of Boston

Home page for DISCIPLES IN MISSION: A Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Boston

<http://www.disciplesinmission.com/>

Evangelization Page within Disciples in Mission Site

<http://www.disciplesinmission.com/evangelization>

FAQ's

What does an Evangelizing Parish look like?

Everything a parish does should be focused on the goal of evangelizing and making disciples. That is, sharing the message of the Gospel and bringing people closer to Christ. That is why parishes exist – they are meant to be active communities moving closer to Christ through all that they do, and most especially through the sacraments. An evangelizing parish is a parish that engages parishioners and non - parishioners, invests time and resources in them, and invites them into closer relationship with Christ.

To engage in this work effectively doesn't mean you should present this program and not that program. It means that you should encourage active, engaged, and intentional discipleship in all that you do as a parish. This process must be grounded in Christ and must make explicit use of His name and the story of His life, death, and resurrection.

It should mean that personal prayer and witness leads to an increase in open and active discipleship, and in open and active processes of forming intentional disciples. That is, an environment that encourages and fosters disciple – making and growth in discipleship. What we are saying here is that an evangelizing

Additional Resources

Catholic Faith Essentials for the New Evangelization

- <http://www.catholictv.com/shows/catholic-faith-essentials>

Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization

A statement by the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis

- <http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/disciples-called-to-witness/>

Saint Anne Parish - Wausau, Wisconsin

<http://www.stanneswausau.org/formation/>

Helping people grow in the image of Christ. This vision is realized by providing programs of formation for our children and adults that first win their hearts (evangelization), then equip their minds (catechesis), and then send them forth (service).

Our parish Faith Formation (FF) programs reflect ministry to and with children, youth, and adults through small faith sharing groups, opportunities for service to parish & community, and an emphasis on the development of a deeper Catholic Christian identity for all members of our parish family.

Parishioners continue to seek to grow in their relationship with God, developing a deeper understanding of the Bible and their faith tradition, relate the Christian faith to life today, participate in the life and ministries of the faith community, and live as disciples of Jesus Christ in their daily life at home, in the workplace, in the community and the world. Parishioners strive for a faith that touches the head, the heart, and actions of adults, a faith formation that informs, forms, and transforms.

The parish can provide opportunities where adults will be nourished by word, sacrament, and the communal life, thereby giving witness to the Gospel message in their homes, neighborhoods, and places of work.

Looking at conceptualized adult faith formation, not as a series of program offerings, but as an adult learning resources system—a diverse community of learning continues to be the goal and vision of the Adult Faith Formation Team and the Faith Formation Commission, to examine and plan for the vision set out by Vatican II.

(EXAMPLE)

Small Groups consist of: scripture study, book clubs, seasonal groups (meeting specific times of the year), men's group, young moms group and Small Church Communities (SCC). SCC offers a way to meet new people, to reflect on the Sunday readings and apply the learning to your life, and to feel connected to the parish in a special way. Small Groups are available seasonally during Advent and Lent, or weekly and monthly. Small groups including SCC, At Home Retreats, etc. are coordinated in collaboration with the Adult Faith Formation & Evangelization Team.

ACTS MISSIONS

<http://www.actsmissions.org/>

Mission Statement

ACTS MISSIONS spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ among Catholic communities by promoting, consulting in, facilitating and coordinating ACTS Retreats.

Values Statement

Honor God in everything we do.

- Heart of a Servant Leader

Build relationship based on trust & respect

- Charisms of the Holy Spirit: Working with others

With a servant's heart, maintain integrity & excellence in leadership programs, services and retreats.

ACTS Missions Vision

Through the ACTS retreat, ACTS Missions provides a spark that ignites Catholics world-wide with the eternal flame of the Holy Spirit. As an instrument of God, ACTS is a light that will help bring about the New Evangelization by fostering love and true discipleship, leading others to a commitment and obedience to Our Lord Jesus Christ by our every word, action and thought.

History

Modeled after Cursillo, the ACTS retreat is a parish based lay apostolate movement. Its objective is to build and strengthen parish communities through parish based service by rekindling parishioner's personal relationship with Jesus Christ. With the current focus on New Evangelization, ACTS is being seen by many as a major component to the Catholic Church's New Evangelization.

Pastors who have ACTS within their communities and have experienced an ACTS retreat remark that the retreat has renewed their community and has helped their parishioners see clearly what their true purpose as men and women of God is and how to live it out.

Wallace Vaughn, was inspired by the Holy Spirit to read Acts 2:42-47, (See Fellowship of Believers below) the passage that became the biblical inspiration for the weekend.

The Fellowship of the Believers

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

<http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/faith-formation/adult-faith-formation/>

Adult faith formation invites the adult Catholic to deepen their conversion to the Lord, actively participate in the life of the Church, and accept their rightful place in the Church's mission to evangelize. A comprehensive program of adult faith formation includes a study of:

- Sacred Scripture
- Tradition
- The Creed
- Personal and Communal Prayer
- The Sacraments
- The Ten Commandments and the Eight Beatitudes
- Catholic spirituality
- Morality
- The Church's social teachings
- The structure and authority of the Church
- Church history
- Marriage and family life; single life
- Vocations
- The ecumenical movement and interreligious dialogue
- The nature of lay ministry.

The needs of Catholic adults, in fact all adults, are many and varied; age, background, culture, personal experience, and previous formation to list just a few. To meet the individual's particular needs, there are many methods and settings that can be employed — Scripture reading and study, retreats and other prayer experiences, family or home-centered experiences, ecumenical dialogue, small and large group experiences, individual reading and study use of technology and media, homily at Mass or other liturgy, and adults learning from one another.

Evangelization and Faith Formation | Diocese of Providence
<https://discovercatholicfaith.org/online-courses>

LEVEL ONE COURSES:

Christian Prayer Seminar

This introductory course will give an overview of Christian Prayer, particularly public and private prayer. The course will include prayer experiences.

Christian Living Seminar

(Live)"Living the Gifts of the Holy Spirit Seminar"

Presented by Rev. Francis Santilli, Pastor

Location: St. Philip Church, 622 Putnam Pike, Greenville, RI

April 21, 2015 7 weeks Time: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM

Sacraments: The Masterworks of God

In this introductory course participants will learn how the Sacraments, instituted by Christ, manifest and communicate the mystery of communion with God who is love. Recognize how you enter into living communion with Christ and his Church through the Sacraments which are "ever-living and life-giving."

Salvation History: The New Testament

This introductory course will give an overview of the New Testament and the major themes presented in this part of Scripture.

Jesus: Word of the Father

Who is Jesus in the Story of Salvation, who is He to the Church and to you? In this introductory survey course, participants will explore the rich meanings of Jesus: the Son of God, Christ, Lord, Savior and King-Messiah.

Salvation History: Old Testament

This is an introductory survey course on the story of Salvation History in the Old Testament. Recognize the unfolding of God's plan of salvation as revealed through Creation, the key persons, prophets, kings and wisdom figures of the Old Testament.

LEVEL TWO COURSES

(For Catechist Certification completion of Level One is a prerequisite for these courses.)

The Church

The Liturgy and Liturgical Seasons

This course discusses the elements of the Liturgy and how we are drawn into the mystery of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection throughout the Liturgical Year.

The Creed

Life in Christ: 10 Commandments & Beatitudes

The Spirituality of a Catechist

On-line courses for Adults

- C-21 Online - Boston College
- <http://www.bc.edu/schools/stm/c21online/>

C21 Online, a program of Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, offers non-credit online courses for adult spiritual enrichment and faith formation. With a focus on shared reflection in an online learning community, C21 Online models the kind of conversation and participation that lead to deeper understanding of and personal growth in faith.

- STEP Program from the University of Notre Dame
- <http://step.nd.edu/>

STEP at the University of Notre Dame began in 1999 as the Satellite Theological Education Program. We use digital technology to offer theological education to pastoral ministers and other adult Catholics across the United States and beyond. We are part of Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life, which serves the University's larger mission of teaching, research, and service to society and to the Church.

Our staff members work with Notre Dame professors and other highly qualified instructors to assemble lectures, readings, and supporting materials for Web-based courses. We train and coordinate facilitators, who in turn guide STEP students as they interact with each other and with Notre Dame's online learning environment. From registration to course completion, we strive to provide you with a friendly, supportive place to grow in faith and understanding.

- Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation - University of Dayton
- <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere via the internet. The goal is to support the church's professional ministry of religious education and faith formation in cyberspace.

The VLCFF is coordinated and sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (IPI) at the University of Dayton - a Catholic Marianist Institution.

Our mission is to mobilize the resources of the University of Dayton for partnerships with the Church that create and implement innovative pastoral initiatives designed to meet the needs of the Church and to articulate faith within the context of contemporary culture.

21st Century Catholic Evangelization

Evangelization Committee of the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership

<http://www.21stcenturycatholicsevangelization.org/index.html>

This website is designed to serve Catholic leaders in their ministry of evangelization. We are seeking to provide approaches, strategies, and resources to help parish and diocesan leaders address three audiences for the transmission of the Christian faith: (1) to reach out to those who have never heard the gospel proclaimed (initial evangelization); (2) to re-engage those who are baptized but have lost a living sense of the faith in their daily lives (re-discovering faith); and (3) to engage more intently those who are faithful and need to be renewed with increased catechesis (evangelizing catechesis). (See 2013-2016 USCCB Strategic Plan for the New Evangelization, www.usccb.org/about/strategic-plan.cfm.)

This is a curated website, which means that we have taken great care to identify and evaluate the best Catholic evangelization practices and resources available. The materials on this website represent a variety of approaches to Catholic evangelization. We do not endorse any particular resource or approach to Catholic evangelization. We do offer you an online resource center from which you can learn more about Catholic evangelization, discover effective practices, and review quality resources, so that you can select the best approaches and resources for your community.

We have organized the content on the website into six categories to make it easy to find the resources you need.

1. **Religious Trends** - Current research studies and reports on Catholic religiosity and practices
2. **Catholic Evangelization** - Contemporary Church teaching on evangelization from the Vatican and the U.S. Catholic Bishops; and articles on Catholic evangelization from theologians and pastoral leaders
3. **Evangelization & Liturgy** - Resources describing the connection between liturgy, especially Sunday Mass, and evangelization
4. **Practices & Approaches** - Resources developed by parishes and dioceses that illustrate a variety of effective practices and approaches for Catholic evangelization
5. **Resources** - Books, digital media, program resources, organizations, and websites designed to help parish and dioceses develop Catholic evangelization initiatives and programs
6. **Leadership Formation** - Educational resources to learn more about Catholic evangelization and train leaders for evangelization in their communities