

# Evangelization Tools for the Parish

## Promote One At a Time and Do It Well!

**Forming an Evangelization Team:** Enlist the support of people who have a thirst to bring others closer to Jesus Christ and the Church. Take time and pray together to the Holy Spirit to discern what is most needed at the parish now. Work toward this goal by helping:

- People to know and love more deeply the person of Jesus Christ (*Go Deeper*).
- The parish to become a vibrant community alive in Christ and burning with love of neighbor (*Go Wider*).
- Catholics to invite those on the margins to encounter the joy of Christ and to feel at home in the parish family (*Go Out*).

**Small Group Ministry:** We need to grow as disciples of Christ as a family community, supporting, encouraging, and correcting each other. Ongoing study and reflection with other Catholics is a necessary component of the Christian life. It builds community and a sense of belonging in your parish; it develops strong friendships in Christ; it provides a specific time to deepen your relationship with the Lord. Some of the best programs are:

- *Oremus (Let Us Pray)* by Fr. Mark Toups, 8 sessions
- *Lectio Eucharist Bible Study* by Brant Pitre, 10 sessions
- *Living the Discerning Life* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, 20 session
- *Who Am I to Judge, Responding to Relativism*, Edward Sri
- *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael Gaitley, 5 sessions
- *Discipleship Series* by Chris Ruff. Each book - 6 sessions

**Bulletin Inserts:** One-page bulletin inserts are written to spark a deepening engagement with Christ and the Faith, as well as to explain the meaning behind the upcoming liturgical celebration. These bi-monthly inserts are not meant to compete with a pastor's column but for personal reading and then passing on to a friend.

**Praying with Scripture** is a way of prayerfully pondering a Bible passage in which you encounter the Person of Christ. There is a deepening process that starts in the head and goes to the heart as the Holy Spirit makes a connection between the persons and events in the Scripture and your own personal life by reminding you of something from your life. See Diocesan webpage:

<http://diolc.org/catechesis/praying-with-scripture/>

### **Lector Training using “The Great Adventure Bible Timeline”**

Lead all lectors to a deep love for the Word of God through studying the “Big Picture” of the Bible.

- The Bible Timeline by Jeff Cavins or
- T3: The Teen Timeline for young adults by Mark Hart

**Pray a Novena to the Holy Spirit:** Everyone needs a cause – Parish Renewal, return of fallen-away Catholics, an interest in RCIA, etc.

**Catholic Life Magazine** contains compelling stories about how people in our Diocese have encountered Jesus.

- Use featured “Discipleship Questions” for meeting discussion
- Draw attention to a particular story in the parish bulletin

**The Word Among Us:** Provide this helpful booklet which includes Scripture readings, prayers and daily meditations based on daily Mass as well as practical featured articles for the liturgical season and saints. <https://wau.org/> Bulk prices.

**Parish Pilgrimage** is a journey to a sacred place to come closer to God. The time together bonds the parish community spiritually.

**Parish Council or other group read a chapter of a good book or watch a session of a DVD series and discuss it at each meeting.**

Discussion questions available:

- *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus* (book) by Sherry Weddell.
- *Re-Lit, The Heart of Evangelization* DVDs by Michael Dopp, 18 sessions (free rental)
- *Jesus, The Story You Thought You Knew* by Dcn. Keith Strohm
- *Rediscovering the Heart of a Disciple* by Edward Sri. \$7.
- *Catholic and Christian, An Explanation of Commonly Misunderstood Catholic Beliefs* by Alan Shreck. \$2 Dyn Cath
- *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic; How Engaging 1% of Catholics Could Change the World* by Matthew Kelly. \$3.

**Calendars with Sacred Art:** Distribute a calendar at the parish for the New Year that contains Sacred Art, such as images of Jesus, Mary, or the saints including brief explanations.

**A 3-minute vetted Conversion Story at the end of Mass:** Invite a person who has experienced conversion (at least 2 yrs. prior) to give a brief testimony. A simple worksheet for preparation is available at <http://diolc.org/evangelization/>

**Prayer:** Becoming a committed disciple requires the habit of daily prayer; provide resources; protect the time before & after Mass for prayer & allow silence during Mass for encountering Christ.

**Parish Mission:** Move hearts with preaching they are not used to.

**Sacramental Prep for the Parents** to grow in their own faith when their baby is baptized, child receives First Communion or teen is confirmed. <http://diolc.org/catechesis/sacramental-prep/>

**Lay Formation Institute** develops spiritual, intellectual and pastoral abilities of adult parish leaders for the New Evangelization. Form an army to be leaven by sending two parishioners every two years.

**What's the Story with You and God?** Our Parish Communities need more witnesses – people who are able to articulate the ways that they have encountered God and how He has worked in their lives. Ann, Chris Carstens & Chris Ruff guide groups through this enjoyable process of helping participants to give an answer “to anyone who asks [them] for a reason for [their] hope” (1 Pt 3:15).

**Give out a Good Catholic Book from the parish to each family that attends Mass on Christmas and/or Easter.** This stirs people to want to know more. Spiritual reading is a path to committed daily prayer. Over a six week period, it works well if the priest/deacon mentions some aspect of a few chapters at Mass, which inspires people to complete the book. (Cost of books from \$2 - \$3)

- *Rediscover Jesus* by Matthew Kelly. Dynamic Catholic
- *Resisting Happiness* by Matthew Kelly. Dynamic Catholic
- *The Real Story, Understanding the Big Picture of the Bible* by Edward Sri and Curtis Martin. Dynamic Catholic
- *Meet Your Mother*, a Brief Introduction to Mary by Mark Miravalle. Lighthouse Catholic Media
- *Bible Basics for Catholics*, by Dr. John Bergsma. Light Cath.
- *The Ultimate Relationship*, \$1 from Office for C & E

**Parish or Deanery Retreat** allows people to step away from their busy life, quiet down and enter more deeply into prayer.

- Cursillo Retreats are structured weekend retreats that place a strong emphasis on community and evangelization with the goal of helping people become more *fully* Christian, by enriching a personal relationship with God, experiencing faith more deeply and living it out in daily life alongside a more bonded community. Follow-up with small groups. <http://www.catholicretreats.net/cursillo-retreats>

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