

The New Evangelization

Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to two upcoming events within the Archdiocese of Seattle that encourage us **to pray, live and then share the Gospel with everyone**. This is the “New Evangelization” effort that the Second Vatican Council urges us to do and that St. Pope John Paul II calls our “supreme duty.” This duty is the commission Jesus gave to His disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation.” (NRSV Mk 16:15-16) Jesus Christ, our Savior, is the Good News, the Gospel that we live and proclaim.



In order to make the New Evangelization a reality here in our four-parish regional boundaries, a local St. Paul Street Evangelization (SPSE) team was formed by several members of St. Paul Parish. They have been going to Seward Park in the past several weeks to evangelize and “sow the seeds” of the Gospel with everyone they meet. How do they do this? It is done in a peaceful and non-confrontational way. Please read the article “Evangelization and You” to learn more about evangelization. Then contact the Seattle SPSE team leader, Niña de Jesus at ninadejesus@icloud.com or call 206-859-8902 to find out how you can join or even start your own team. I invite you to attend the **Basic Evangelization Training** coming up in August. Please see the information in the Events column posted here.

The **Cornerstone Catholic Conference** coming up in October is another opportunity to deepen your commitment to the Gospel. *“The purpose of the Cornerstone Conference is to inspire and educate Catholics and others to continue working together to protect human life: the unborn, individuals who live in poverty or on the margins of society, and people at the end of life.”* How does protection of human life equate to evangelization? Simply put, we proclaim that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We bring this Truth and bear witness to it in every stage of humanity, from conception to natural death.

In the heart of the evangelist is love for God and neighbor. Each one of us, by our baptism, has the mission and duty of sharing God’s love to the world. I invite you to attend these faith-filled events so that you may be renewed and convicted to go out and proclaim the Good News to all creation.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Felino Paulino

EVENTS

Basic Evangelization Training
August 12, 2017
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

\$20.00 registration fee

Presented by St. Paul
Street Evangelization



St. Michael Parish
Parish Center
Multipurpose Room
1208 11th Ave. SE,
Olympia 98501

To register or for more information
contact:

Niña de Jesus at
ninadejesus@icloud.com
or call 206-859-8902



**Cornerstone Catholic
Conference**
Together for Life and Justice

October 20-21, 2017
**at The Greater Tacoma
Convention Center**
1500 Broadway
Tacoma, WA 98402

REGISTER at
www.cornerstonecatholic.org

TO REGISTER BY PHONE call
Brown Paper Tickets
1-800-838-3006

for information: call
206-301-0556



Evangelization and You

If you are like most Catholics, the idea of evangelization makes you very nervous, and when you hear someone talk about “street evangelization,” you probably think of a religious fanatic standing on a soap box and shouting to all who pass by, “You’re all going to hell!” That is NOT evangelizing. Such tactics aren’t an effective way to share the good news of the Gospel, which is what evangelization is supposed to be all about – sharing the Catholic Faith we love and helping others find or rediscover that same Faith.

Catholics sometimes comment that when they were growing up, no one ever talked about evangelization. However, evangelization has been an essential part of the Church from the very beginning. After all, if those first twelve Apostles hadn’t left their comfort zone, the Good News of the Gospel would have died out within a generation. Throughout Christian history, the laity have always been involved in evangelizing their family and their friends. This call for the laity to evangelize was in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. The Council urged the baptized “to bring the Gospel, found fully in the Catholic Church, to a culture that has largely reverted to paganism.”

Saint John Paul II was one of the first to refer to the “New Evangelization.” In the papal encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, he wrote, “The moment has come to commit all of the Church’s

energies to a new evangelization...no believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all people.” This call, this duty, to evangelize is found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC 1816: ‘The disciple of Christ **must** not only keep the faith and live on it, but also **profess it**, confidently **bear witness to it**, and **spread it**.”

The “New” Evangelization is different from the traditional evangelization of the past. The apostles and those who followed were sharing the Gospel with people who had never heard it before. That is sometimes true today. With the rapid secularization of the country and the decay of the modern culture, there are still people who have never heard of Jesus. However, often the greater need is to reach out to fallen-away Catholics. The numbers of baptisms and marriages in the United States have drastically declined, and the largest non-Catholic religious group in the country are fallen-away Catholics.

The interesting thing is that they usually don’t stop going to the Catholic Church because of the teachings of the Faith or problems with the clergy. A recent survey of Catholics who have left the Church found that 71% of them “just gradually drifted away.” These are the lost sheep that we as faithful Catholics are called to reach out to, and often they are as close to us as our own family.

Unfortunately, we are conditioned by the secular culture around us to think that our faith is supposed to be a private affair; it’s not always something we feel comfortable talking about in public. While you do not need to be a street evangelizer or a professional, you are still called to intentionally share your Faith in the way you live your life and in the words you use to

tell family and friends about Jesus in your own words.

So how do ordinary Catholics learn more about becoming effective evangelizers? First of all, by learning more about the teachings of the Church. You can’t explain what you don’t understand. Take advantage of any Bible study or apologetics classes your church might offer. Avail yourself of the vast riches that are available on the Internet from widely respected Catholic sources.

Then check out the many resources that are available on the New Evangelization, including the “Basic Evangelization Training” information available at the St. Paul Street Evangelization website. All of this can help you to gain the confidence you need to leave your comfort zone and see for yourself what this evangelization thing is all about.

To learn more, go to the St. Paul Street Evangelization website: www.streetevangelization.com/seattle

Contact: Niña de Jesus at ninadejesus@icloud.com or call 206-859-8902.

St. Paul Street Evangelization is a [grassroots, non-profit Catholic evangelization organization](http://www.streetevangelization.com), dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking our Catholic Faith to the streets. We do this in a non-confrontational way, allowing the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of those who witness our public Catholic presence. St. Paul Street Evangelization provides an avenue for you to share the Person of Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith with a hungry culture.

In order to build a civilization of love, we must first create a culture of evangelization.