

*"Sing to the Lord, bless his name; announce his salvation day after day.
Tell God's glory among the nations; among all peoples, God's glorious deeds."
Psalm 96:2-3*

"They (the New Evangelization Team) are priests and lay people from our own local area who can relate to the day-to-day experiences of the people of our local Church...I am very grateful for the work of this team – because of its diversity in age and experience, it was able to offer each one of us a fresh perspective as to how we are called to be the ones who carry forth to others the Good News of salvation ...*lte, Missa Est* – Go and be missioned – and so we were sent forth with simple, concrete examples as to how all of us can be caught up in this wonderful work of evangelization."

Fr. Tony Stanganelli, Pastor, Holy Spirit Church

"From the point of view of not knowing exactly what to expect, the New Evangelization Parish Mission was very compelling. I listened to the testimonies of "different" types of people. The amazing thing was that I was able to relate to all of their stories in one way or another – ordinary things yet quite powerful. I feel that this is a wonderful way in which a parish can share as a family. I was glad I attended the Mission, and I know that I gained another piece to bring me closer to God."

Diana Padilla, Parishioner

"Fr. Brian Barr introduced himself at Mass and invited the congregation to attend the upcoming Mission. He spoke passionately, but the line that stuck out in my mind and hooked me in was that, 'Lent should be about more than eating pizza.' I knew he was right. He was challenging people to take the time for what is truly important. I was able to attend two of the services and I enjoyed the format. I was moved by the individual experiences shared by the speakers. Listening to them lead me to reflect on how Jesus is present in my own life."

Ann Keenan, parishioner



"But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!'"

Romans 10: 14-15

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**The Parish
Evangelization
Mission**

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Sowing the Seeds of Faith



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“There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him and to speak to others of our friendship with him.”

Pope Benedict XVI

As part of the resources offered to the parishes of our Diocese through the Secretariat for the New Evangelization, we are offering a PARISH EVANGELIZATION MISSION.

The New Evangelization Mission Team is made up of Father Brian Barr of our Campus Ministry Apostolate, Thomas Smith of our Youth Ministry Apostolate, Alexandra Bastien of our Young Adult Apostolate and Msgr. Richard Figliozzi, who heads the Secretariat and is also the Director of our Diocesan Propagation of the Faith and Mission Office.

The mission will follow the basic format used in the monthly New Evangelization Guide published by this office and available on our website. This Guide highlights five particular “moments” of evangelization. These are: *ENCOUNTER*, *CONVERSION*, *EUCHARIST*, *HOLINESS*, and *MISSION*. In much of the magisterial teaching since the 1980’s, these “moments” have been noted as critical ones in terms of the Church’s evangelization activity. The format is as follows:

1. Father Barr and Msgr. Figliozzi divide the parish’s weekend Mass schedule and individually speak at

all Masses, introducing the Mission and inviting the parishioners to attend. (Note: if the parish has a Youth Ministry program meeting on any night of the Mission, a special presentation could be tailored just for them while the rest of the congregation is meeting in the church.)

2. The theme for Monday, the first evening, is *ENCOUNTER with the Lord Jesus*. Each of the team members relates an experience from their lives which provided them an opportunity to “meet” the Lord Jesus in a new and deeper way. A half hour of Eucharistic Adoration is part of this first evening.
3. The theme for the second evening, Tuesday, is *CONVERSION to the way of the Lord*. Each team member addresses this theme as part of a communal Reconciliation Service with individual confessions.
4. The theme for the third evening, Wednesday, is *HOLINESS and MISSION*. The *EUCHARIST* is celebrated this evening of the Mission. Pope John Paul II spoke of the importance of holiness for every person: “...the Church needs genuine witnesses for the new evangelization: men and women whose lives have been transformed by meeting with Jesus, men and women who are capable of communicating this experience to others. The Church needs saints. All are called to holiness, and holy people alone can renew humanity.”

5. At the conclusion of the Eucharist, an already agreed-upon date is announced (usually four to six weeks later) at which everyone is invited back to a Liturgy of the Word. During this Service, the parishioners are invited to offer their reflections on the themes touched upon during the Mission. The purpose of this meeting is to have everyone see themselves as missionaries of the Gospel of God’s Love, with the call and responsibility to be active evangelizers.

A parish mission is meant to renew, refresh and replant the seeds of faith, giving people a chance to enhance their relationship with God. True evangelization only happens when a person’s heart is touched by Christ. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, “Knowledge of the content of the faith alone is never a substitute for the experience of a personal encounter with the Lord.” By following the format laid out above, especially touching upon each of the evangelization “moments” and following up with a reflection session, the New Evangelization Mission Team hopes to bring about such an encounter with Christ for those who attend, while also bringing them to realize the importance of their own call to evangelize the world around them.

