EVANGELIZATION:
THE ESSENTIAL MISSION OF THE CHURCH

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Mt 28: 19-20

GOAL I:
CONVERSION WITHIN THE INDIVIDUAL

To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.

The strategy of this goal is to so deepen the sense of Scripture and sacrament that Catholics will pray more fully and, with a greater understanding of Christ's call, live as disciples at home, at work, and in today's many cultural settings. It seeks a greater openness to physical, mental, and cultural diversity among Catholics.

GOAL I OBJECTIVES

- To foster an experience of conversion and renewal in the heart of every believer, leading to a more active living of Catholic life.
- To foster an appreciation of God’s Word in the lives of all Catholics.
- To make the evangelizing dimension of the Sunday Eucharist more explicit.
- To foster an appreciation of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and all of the Sacraments, the sacred signs of our Catholic life.
- To foster a greater appreciation of the power of God’s Word in our worship.
- To foster an even deeper sense of prayer among our Catholic people.
- To foster a renewed understanding of faith among Catholics.
- To foster a sense of discipleship among Catholic adults and children.
- To foster active and personal religious experience through participation in small-group and other communal experiences in which the Good News is shared, experienced, and applied to daily life.
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- To foster a sense of the domestic Church within households in which families, individuals and groups reside.
- To promote and develop a spirituality for the workplace.
- To foster greater appreciation of cultural and ethnic spirituality.

Clearly, unless we continue to be evangelized ourselves (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 15) with renewed enthusiasm for our faith and our Church, we cannot evangelize others. Priority must be given to continued and renewed faith formation in faith as the basis of our deepening personal relationship with Jesus.

GOAL II:
CONVERSION TO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith.

The strategy behind this goal is to create a more welcoming attitude toward others in our parish so that people feel at home, to create an attitude of sharing faith and develop greater skills to do this, and to undertake activities to invite others to know the Catholic people better.
GOAL II OBJECTIVES

- To make every Catholic institution, especially our parish, more welcoming.
- To help every Catholic feel comfortable about sharing his or her faith and inviting people to discover Christ in our Catholic family of believers.
- To develop within families and households the capacity to share the Gospel.
- To equip and empower our active Catholic members to exercise their baptismal call to evangelize.
- To use special times in parish and family life to invite people to faith.
- To cultivate an active core of the baptized to serve as ministers of evangelization in their parishes, dioceses, neighborhoods, workplaces and homes.
- To effectively invite people to our Church.
- To design programs of outreach for those who have ceased being active in the Church.
- To design programs that reach out in particular ways to those who do not participate in a church community or who seek the fullness of faith.
- To foster the cultural diversity of the Church.
- To deepen ecumenical involvement.

The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself. There is a great need to work at becoming more welcoming, less anonymous, more active in seeking new members and reconciling old ones. Welcome, acceptance, the invitation to conversion and renewal, reconciliation and peace, beginning with worship, must characterize the whole tenor of the parishes.

GOAL III– CONVERSION OF SOCIETY

_To foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ._

The strategy behind this goal is of strengthening our everyday involvement with those in need, of reflecting on the workplace and media, and of encouraging Catholic involvement in areas of public policy as a way of having greater impact on society’s values.

GOAL III OBJECTIVES

- To involve the parish and local service groups in the needs of their neighborhood.
- To foster the importance of the family.
- To develop groups to explore issues of the workplace and lay spirituality.
- To encourage Catholic witness in the arts and in the American intellectual community.
- To involve every Catholic, on different levels, in areas of public policy.
- To involve the Catholic Church, on every level, in the media.
- To involve Catholics, at every level, in questions of economic systems.

This goal follows upon the other two: The appreciation of our faith and its spread should lead to the transformation of our society. The pursuit of this goal, however, must accompany the pursuit of the other two because evangelization is not possible without powerful signs of justice and peace, as the Gospel shapes the framework of our lives. Evangelization’s impact on culture and society is to foster Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Source: [http://www.sabecorse.net/](http://www.sabecorse.net/) St. Andrew Bessette Catholic Church, Ecorse, MI “Get out of the boat!”