



CATHOLIC CONNECTION

A PARISH EVANGELIZATION RESOURCE



Vol. II, No. 1

Fall 2006

parish corner

The early years of learning reading, writing, and arithmetic provide us with basic information that we use to build upon throughout our lives. The same applies to evangelization efforts. Paul VI's, *Evangelization in the Modern World* (Evangelii Nuntiandi) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops', *Go and Make Disciples* are two documents that provide us with basic information upon which to build our understanding and response to evangelization.

The first document sets the vision and mission of evangelization. The latter reemphasizes the vision and mission and provides practical suggestions for implementation.

Since we are continuously looking for tools to assist us in our evangelization efforts the following 'return to basics' suggestions may be helpful.

- Over a year, use *Evangelization in the Modern World* as study and reflection for the parish council and committees.
- Have parish leaders read, discuss and take action on *Go and Make Disciples*.

Two companion pieces are available to assist. One, by Susan Blum Gerding, includes the text, study guide, and an implementation process. The other, prepared by Paulists Frank DeSiano and Kenneth Boyack, includes text and planning guide. Each has a different style but both provide a practical process that celebrates the *good works* presently happening and challenges us to continue spreading the *Good News* in new and different ways. Our office has both for preview.

- Publish and encourage parishioners to attend the Archdiocese of Louisville Ministry Institute's adult education opportunities. If we want parishioners to be excited about their faith, they need to know about their faith.

- Revisit two publications of our Diocese, the *Christian Hospitality Manual* and the booklet, *Who are the People in my Neighborhood?* What have you implemented? What is still to do? (These resources are available from our office.)
- I am your Catholic Services Appeal dollars at work so invite me into your parish / region to sit with your leadership group, listen, and assist with evangelization efforts.

There tools are at your disposal. How will you choose to use them?

outreach - quick and easy

Design an event that celebrates friendship. It should have a religious foundation that is organized around a prayer service. Have parishioners invite their friends to this special occasion. Be sure to print up invitation cards for parishioners to use. At the "friends" event, schedule time for people to introduce their friends, if possible; acknowledge the friends' presence, bestow a special blessing over them, and even present some small gift of friendship. Follow it with a reception with food on one table and information about the parish on another.

Making parish information available at all gatherings sponsored by your parish is easy and affordable.



Catholic Connection is published by the Archdiocesan
Communication Center, Evangelization Ministry
1200 So. Shelby St., Louisville, KY 40203
502-636-0296

Coordinator – Sue Brodfehr
sbrodfehr@archlou.org.

Notify Sue at above email address if you wish to
comment or have information you would like to share.

the written word

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, July 2006

The presence of the Catholic Church in the United States reaches back to the founding days of our country through the leadership of Archbishop John Carroll, the first Catholic bishop in the United States. His story, like the stories at the start of each chapter in *the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, give us a glimpse into the lives of Catholics who lived out their faith throughout our country's history.

Each chapter in the *Catechism for Adults* includes stories, doctrine, reflection, quotations, discussion questions, and prayer to lead the reader to a deepening faith. The *Catechism for Adults* is an excellent resource for preparation of catechumens in the RCIA and for ongoing catechesis of adults in small groups and formal catechetical settings. To preview sections go to www.usccbpublishing.org; ordering information is also available.

Sources for Parish Evangelization

Evangelization in the Modern World, Pope Pius VI. Out of print but available as a download from usccb.org/evangelization/apostolic.shtml.

Go and Make Disciples, USCCB. USCCB Publishing, ISBN 1-57455-475-1.

Text Study Guide and Implementation Process for Go and Make Disciples, by Susan Blum Gerding, Ed.D. Prepared in consultation with the NCCB committee on Evangelization. Jeremiah Press, www.jeremiahpress.com.

Commentary and Planning Guide for Personal, Parish and Diocesan Planning for Go and Make Disciples by Frank DeSiano, CSP and Kenneth Boyack, CSP. Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, www.pncea.org.

The Call to Hospitality - Communities of Faith & People with Disabilities

November 9 & 10, 2006,
Lexington Theological Seminary, 631 Limestone

The conference is designed to bring clergy, professionals, and families together to learn about establishing faith communities that are truly inclusive of all people, including children and adults with disabilities.

A flyer is included in this mailing.

across the desk

Every Day Catholic

St. Anthony Messenger Press

I am quite sure this publication has already crossed your desk but it bears a revisit. This four-page, full color, monthly publication is one way to help parishioners tie together faith life and everyday experiences. Each month the reader can sit with the following sections: Family Corner, Wise Words, Saints and Heroes Among Us, For the Fridge, Key Catholic Questions, Media Watch, and Questions for Reflection - all written in a clear, succinct, thought-provoking style that is rooted in our faith tradition.

For ordering and pricing information visit www.AmericanCatholic.org or call 1-800-488-0488, ext. 158. If you would like to see a sample, let me know and I'll be happy to send one out to you (while supplies last).

Evangelization...is a complex process made up of varied elements: the renewal of humanity, witness, explicit proclamation, inner adherence, entry into the community, acceptance of signs, apostolic initiative.... Each one must always be seen in relationship with the others...rather than to place them in opposition one to the other, in order to reach a full understanding of the Church's evangelizing activity.

On Evangelization in the Modern World,
Pope Paul VI

Ponderings...

What is your reaction to this statement? Surprise? Encouragement? Concern? Challenge?

How does your life reflect the elements of evangelization?

With which elements are you less comfortable? Why do you think this is so?

How does your parish vision and mission reflect the elements of evangelization?

Parishes so often stress some elements and overlook others? Which ones does your parish stress? Why? Which are overlooked? Why?