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CATHOLIC CONNECTION

A PARISH EVANGELIZATION RESOURCE

"The Church exists in order to evangelize." Evangelii Nuntiandi, Pope Paul VI.



Community Corner



Evangelization – With my Dentist!

Sharon Schuhmann



While going to the dentist is low on my list of things I love to do, my dentist makes the experience very pleasant because he is such a nice man. He belongs to St. William's Parish, and we always enjoy a great conversation about Catholicism.

When he found out that my new position was Coordinator of Evangelization, his immediate response was, "So your job will be to bring people back to the faith." My answer was, "Yes, but just as important will be evangelizing with the people already in the pews." He paused with his hands full of dental instruments and said, "I like that idea. We do need evangelizing, don't we?"

We all do. We recognize that the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelization, and we are all called to serve as witnesses of the Good News with joy and enthusiasm.

Statistic's show that the impact of evangelization efforts is approximately:

- 10% from religious education staff,
- 15% from priest, parish and archdiocesan staff,
- 75% from friends and family.

As scripture proclaims, *The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.*
Luke 10: 2

Parish Corner



Remember to welcome new people who have moved into your parish boundaries.



Rely on parishioners to inform you about new residents or look for the list of home sales in the real estate section of the newspaper, and send a sign of welcome from your parish.

The Evangelization Office offers resources.

Christian Hospitality Handbook and *Reaching Out – A Manual for Evangelizing Inactive Catholics* are two wonderful resources we offer. Call the office of Evangelization, (502) 636-0296 for more information.

Ministry Training



Archdiocese of Louisville Ministry Institute (ALMI) continues offering a variety of courses. ALMI is a joint training effort among archdiocesan agencies in response to the expanding need for ministry training. Through our ministries we share in the vision that our church exists in order to evangelize. For more information, go to our website, archlou.org, and look for "Training."

BeFriender Ministry - A Listening Presence

BeFriender Ministry is a national organization that provides leadership training and program support for a listening ministry. Trained lay volunteers extend the care of the faith community.

Register for fall workshop by October 1.

For more information, call the Office of Pastoral Care, Family Ministries or Evangelization Office, (502) 636-0296.

Book Review



From Maintenance to Mission: Evangelization and the Revitalization of the Parish

by Robert S. Rivers, CSP

This book provides a look at evangelization as a way of life. As the title suggests, Rivers' vision involves an evangelizing spirituality in all parish planning, so that parishes are moved beyond maintaining the life of the parish, to mission and evangelizing in all the parish does.

The introduction states, *"In a sense the entire book is a progressive argument for a comprehensive, long-term implementation strategy that corresponds to the broad and complex vision of Catholic evangelization as a way of life. Evangelization is not a program. It doesn't lend itself to quick fix strategies. Rather, it challenges us to systematic change."*

The following is one of my favorite quotes, pg. 74

"If we picture the river of God's love



coursing through history,
flooding and passing

through
narrow
canyons
and



steep
cliffs



as well as tranquil
flowing valleys,
then we get a better
sense of the exciting
journey we begin when

we say *yes* to the
evangelizing project.

Our task is to jump into
the flow and take the ride."



Food for thought:



"The first means of evangelization is the witness of the authentically Christian life."

Evangelii Nuntiandi, no. 41

What is your story?

Who have you shared it with?

On the Web



"Evangelization Exchange" – it's free!

Go to www.pncea.org.

- ✚ To view, click on "Evangelization Exchange Archive"
- ✚ To subscribe, click on "Subscribe to Evangelization Exchange"

This free online newsletter is an excellent resource for your parish from the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PNCEA).

Ideas and opportunities addressed in recent issues:

- The Evangelizing Community at Mass
- Obstacles to Evangelization
- Door-to-Door Visits at St. Augustine's, Memphis
- Sample Brochures for Welcoming New Movers and Newcomers



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