

Praying about:

Who is Jesus calling me to evangelize?

- A family member who no longer believes in God.
- A member of the parish who no longer attends Mass.
- Parents with young children in your parish.
- A former Christian who no longer believes in God.
- An elderly member of your parish or community.
- Someone you see at Mass who is not connected to others.
- Someone at work or in your neighborhood.
- A group of people e.g. those who do not know God, the sick, or the poor.
- Young people in the community.

Praying for:

How should I pray for them?

- Pray for the ones you seek to evangelize on a daily basis.
- In prayer before Sunday Mass, ask the Holy Spirit to prepare you to accompany others into a closer relationship with Jesus.
- Attend a retreat (e.g. Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, etc.) to pray for strength and guidance for the work of evangelizing discipleship.
- Attend Mass one additional time each week to pray for the evangelization of the parish, former Catholics, and/or those who do not know God.
- Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) at least one time per month. You not only benefit from the sacrament but you witness your faith in God's mercy.
- Pray for God's inspiration to persevere and be patient.

Reaching out:

Befriending

- Be cheerful in all your interactions with others, smile!
- When being attended to by someone in a business who is wearing a name tag, thank them in name for their assistance.
- Forgive others when wronged by others and treat them with kindness and mercy in return.
- Be a listening ear to those in need of one.
- Accompany through your prayerful presence and patience those who struggle in their faith in God and/or the Church.
- Willingly listen to the faith, life or relationship struggles that others wish to share.
- Be ever mindful that you are called to be a reflection of God's love in the world.
- Be proud (in the good sense) of being a Catholic. Live your life with holy boldness.
- Participate in a Catholic or ecumenical Bible study or faith sharing group.
- Ask someone to see a movie or rent a video or participate in cultural or artistic activities that have healthy spiritual overtones.
- Say grace before meals when in public...making the Sign of the Cross.
- Place religious statuary in your yard.
- Genuinely use such phrases as "Thank God," "God willing," "I pray to God..."
- Pray a rosary in public, perhaps while out walking, not to be boastful but to witness your love of prayer.

Accompanying:

With the Word of God

Sharing the good news with the person or group by:

- asking them to share their belief in God with you.
- asking them if God has impacted them now or in the past.
- if appropriate, asking them about (or if) their parents brought them up in the faith.
- offering to pray with them.
- offering to pray for them, asking them if they have something they would like you to pray about.
- describing your faith in God.
- describing how the Church enriches your life.
- describing how a certain section of scripture is meaningful to you.
- sharing with them an insight you gained from Sunday mass.
- offering to share why you believe in God.
- after you get to know them at a personal level and they are not attending the Mass, ask them if they would like to join you/your family for Mass.
- gently asking them questions about their faith or life. Ask what the purpose of his/her life is? Using your own words, explain how knowing, loving, and serving God in this life and being happy with Him forever in eternity is your purpose in life.
- saying "thank God", "I believe", or "Amen" in their presence.
- when the situation fits, telling the stories about the saints to them.

Accompanying:

Those in your community

- Ask a former Catholic why they no longer attend Mass, listen and do not become defensive or offended by their statements.
- Invite some couples into your home and share a meal and discuss how God has touched their lives.
- Say please and thank you as an expression of Christian gratitude.
- Invite some individuals out for coffee and ask them about their faith in God and beliefs in the Church.
- Offer to go with someone to Father, Deacon or others who has a question/concern that you do not know how to address.
- Invite someone to share their story with you and, if faith comes up, listen to what they have to say.
- Be bold enough to say, “That is against my faith”, or “my faith teaches... .”
- Go to adult education talks in your parish. Invite co-workers, family, and friends to go with you.
- Teach your children to evangelize by taking them to a nursing home, assisting neighbors, etc.
- Sit in different areas of the Church during Sunday Mass in order to connect with others, make sure to notice the stranger in your midst and talk with them after Mass.

Accompanying:

Through works of charity

Participate in one or more of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Become involved in efforts to:

- Feed the Hungry
 - +e.g. prepare a meal for a family or person in need.
 - +e.g. bring Holy Communion to the homebound.
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
 - +e.g. organize a group of people to donate bottled water for a local homeless shelter.
- Shelter the Homeless
 - +e.g. collect gently worn clothing from your neighbors for a local homeless shelter.
- Visit the Sick
 - +e.g. volunteer at a local nursing home.
- Visit the Prisoners
 - +e.g. organize a gift collection for children whose parent is in prison.
- Bury the Dead
 - +e.g. visit a local cemetery and pray for the dead.
- Give alms to the Poor
 - +e.g. find a charity and volunteer to work with the poor.
- Choose to be a disciple of Jesus Christ; not simply a volunteer, carry out these works of mercy as a way to reflect God’s love for us all.
- Visit someone who is living alone and is lonely.
- Support and promote pro-life agencies and organizations.



Convocation of Parish Leaders

ACTION IDEAS FOR
MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

In *Integrated Evangelization*, Msgr. Richter describes that there are “Four Human and Spiritual Actions” involved in evangelization:

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Reaching out (Befriending)

Accompanying

There are many ways to carry out these actions. This document contains a list of suggestions meant to stimulate your ideas about how to be a disciple who seeks to reach others for Christ.