

***"Evangelization will always contain
as the foundation, centre and, at the same time,
the summit of its dynamism
-- a clear proclamation that,
in Jesus Christ salvation is offered to all men,
as a gift of God's grace and mercy."
"The new evangelization," according to John Paul II,
"is not a matter of merely passing on doctrine
but rather of a personal and
profound meeting with the Savior."***

St. Francis taught that we should preach always and when necessary we should use words. (no one knows if he really said this but, there is truth in the concept)

In our society today we need more words and much more action.

Evangelization is the essential mission of the church; Vatican II mentions it over 150 times. It calls for a sharing of the Good news, and a Calling to be different in a radical way. In our very secular world today this need is even strong and more necessary.

In 1983 pope John Paul II coined the phrase the New Evangelization but it did not come into a reality until World Youth Day in Denver in 1993. The youth of the world were challenged to change the world, to bring about a new understanding of our calling and mission as Catholics.

This Evangelization calls to "feel" Jesus in our lives.

We have a mission to love God above all things, but to love him we need to know Him but not just in our heads, but in our hearts.

Falling in love has stages, and so does this new evangelization:

We date: we have head knowledge of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit

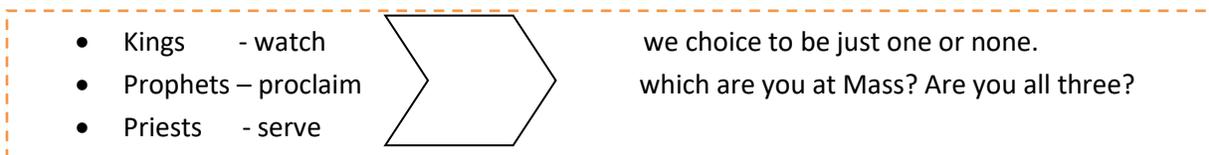
We court: we have heart knowledge of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit

We Marry: we commit our lives to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

So what does this mean for us a teachers, for we are all teachers?

Sadly most of us were raised that we should never talk about three things, politics, sex and religion. Yet in our world today all around us is politics and sex. Turn your TV on, read the paper or even just drive down the street. Our politicians debate freely on TV their positions and we tune in to hear what they have to say. But we still are afraid to talk about religion, the time has come for us to stand up and stop being ashamed of having a relationship with Jesus. Some work in a Catholic school, in Catholic Institutions, but we all live in this world and the world is a classroom for all of us. We need to remember one thing, we have the right and privilege to talk about is our walk with God.

1. We need to talk about our personal love for God.
 - We are called to a radical action.
 - We need to look for opportunities to be different.
2. We need to talk about our personal need for Jesus in our lives.
 - Where do we find Jesus?
 - Do we find Him in the Eucharist?
 - Has he been there in my need? Did I tell anyone?
3. Many people claim to “know” Jesus but do they “know” Him or do they “know” of Him?
 - For to “know” Him is to love Him, Serve Him, and Unite ourselves to Him.
 - A radical position in today’s world, to live for the other and not myself.
4. Shift from the immediate to delayed gratification.
 - We want it now. We google, we text but do we plan?
 - Eternal life is about the future, it’s not found in the now.
 - To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.
 - Do we realize the consequences of our choices?
 - How do my choices today affect the future? If no one baptizes their children today, who will be in our schools tomorrow? If we don’t teach children about God’s love then what directs our moral choices? (My morals vs God’s morals)
5. New Evangelization is about everybody’s baptismal priesthood, baptismal calling.
 - At the Mass we are called to be Priest, Prophet and King, sadly it often looks like:



6. We need to unite word and action. We often do very good works but do we tie our actions to our calling and relationship with Jesus. Historically the church took care of the poor, clothed the naked, feed the hungry cared for those who had no one to care for them. Who does it today?



Corporal Works of Mercy: Frans Francken II 1630

The Corporal Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need. They also offer to us an opportunity to get in touch with our hearts and in turn with God's love for us.

I can feed the hungry but do I love them?

I can cloth the naked but do I love them?

I can shelter the homeless but do I love them?

I can visit those in prison or those who are sick but do I love them?

I can bury the dead but do I let their lives touch me and remind me of eternal life?

I can give a glass of water (cup of coffee) to someone in need but do I love them?

Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

Feed the hungry

Shelter the homeless: harbor the harborless

Clothe the naked

Visit the sick

Visit imprisoned: ransom the captive

Bury the dead

Give alms to the poor: give a drink to the thirsty

Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, as listed below, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

Instruct

Advise

Console

Comfort

Forgive

Bear wrongs patiently

Pray for the living and dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy

FEED the hungry



GIVE DRINK to the thirsty



CLOTHE the naked



HARBOR the harborless



VISIT the sick



RANSOM the captive

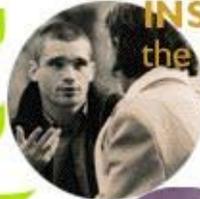


BURY the dead

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?
In so far as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me.



ADVISE the sinner



INSTRUCT the ignorant



COUNSEL the doubtful



COMFORT the sorrowful



BEAR WRONGS patiently



FORGIVE injuries



PRAY for the living and the dead

Matthew 25: 31-46