

DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE EVANGELIZATION DAY



DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE EVANGELIZATION
WORD, WORSHIP, WITNESS

THURSDAY
JANUARY 28TH, 2016

MEMORIAL OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

JUBILEE OF MERCY PRAYER

Merciful like the Father

December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016



Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.



Missionary Proclamation and Initiatory Catechesis on the Baseball Diamond

Home to First: Missionary Proclamation in the *National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC) and the *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) [emphasis added]

There is the form called evangelization, or missionary preaching. This has as its purpose the **arousing of the beginning of faith** so that all will adhere to the word of God. (NDC)

The link between missionary proclamation which seeks to stir up the faith, and which initiatory catechesis which seeks to deepen its roots, is decisive for evangelization.... In situations requiring “new evangelization” co-ordination becomes more complex (*of missionary proclamation and initiatory catechesis*) because ordinary catechesis is, at times offered to **young people** and adults **who need a period of prior proclamation and awakening** in their adherence to Christ. (GDC, 276)

First to Second: Initiatory Catechesis in the *General Directory for Catechesis* (GDC) [emphasis added]

It is “a period of formation, an *apprenticeship* in the whole Christian life,” by which Christians “are initiated into the mystery of salvation and an evangelical style of life” (GDC, 63).

Fundamental Characteristics of Initiatory Catechesis

- this comprehensive formation includes more than instruction: it is an **apprenticeship** of the entire Christian life... which promotes an authentic following of Christ, focused on His Person; it implies knowledge of the faith and in the life of faith, in such a manner that the entire person, at his deepest levels, feels enriched by the Word of God; it helps the disciple of Christ to transform the old man in order to assume his baptismal responsibilities and to profess the faith from his “heart.”
- a basic formation, centered on what constitutes the nucleus of Christian experience, the most fundamental certainties of the faith and the most essential evangelical values; it lays the foundation of the spiritual edifice of the Christian, nurtures the roots of his faith life and enables him to receive more solid nourishment in the ordinary life of the Christian community.

- As it is formation for the Christian life it comprises but surpasses mere instruction. Being essential, it looks to what is “common” for the Christian, without entering into disputed questions nor transforming itself into a form of theological investigation. Finally, being initiatory, it incorporates into the community...
(GDC, 67-68)

The task of initiatory catechesis is the formation of the Christian in the basic habits of discipleship¹ and core Christian doctrine. From that a “plan of life” emerges organically, and is consistent with the kerygma of the Good News. Initiatory catechesis gives the vision and skills² to become an intentional disciple who is also an apostolic worker: a missionary disciple.

The Place of Initiatory Catechesis within the Entire Process of Evangelization

Initiatory catechesis is thus the necessary link between missionary activity, which calls to faith and pastoral activity which continually nourishes the Christian community. This is not, therefore, an optional activity, but basic and fundamental for building up the personality of the individual disciple, as it is for the whole Christian Community. **Without it, missionary activity lacks continuity and is sterile, while pastoral activity lacks roots and becomes superficial and confused: any misfortune could cause the collapse of the entire building.** (GDC, 64)

The Need to Coordinate Missionary Proclamation and Initiatory Catechesis in a Cohesive Process of Evangelization

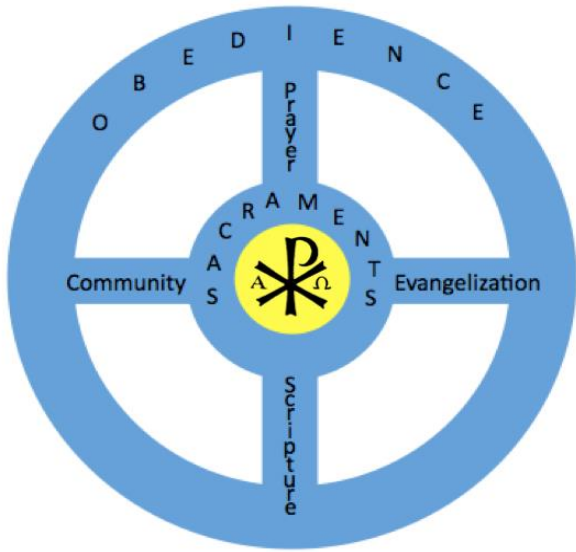
The current situation of evangelization requires that both activities, missionary proclamation and initiatory catechesis, be conceived in a coordinated manner, and be given, in the particular church, within a single programme of evangelization which is both missionary and catechumenal. Today *catechesis must be seen as above all the consequence of an effective missionary proclamation.* (GDC, 277)

¹ The basic habits of discipleship include a focus on the person of Jesus, personal prayer, frequent participation in the liturgy and sacraments, spiritual reading and study, especially of sacred Scripture, formation of virtue, commitment to community, and evangelization (see GDC 84-86).

² The skills of apostolic work include leadership of small groups, one-on-one discipleship mentoring, a orientation towards others who need Christ, the ability to move a conversation to spiritual topics, ability and desire to give personal witness to the good news in one’s own life, and a heart to help people to navigate the thresholds of conversion.

Habits of Discipleship: The Discipleship Wheel

Following Jesus is beautifully simple. This illustration shows, in a simple way, the heart and habits of life in Christ. If you incorporate each of them into your life in Christ, your spiritual “wheel” will keep moving you closer to Him.



1. **The Hub: Christ at the Center**- In the hub of the wheel, you find Christ, the one who made possible the healing, salvation and redemption of our own life and that of the human race. The place at the center of the wheel should be the place he should occupy in our lives. *Galatians 2:19-20*
2. **Inner Rim: Sacramental life**- The sacramental life draws us ever more deeply into the life of Christ through his Body, the Church. Thus the sacramental life is drawn in a circle around Christ, the center of our life. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders. *John 6:56*

Vertical Axis –represents the direct relationship with Jesus and the Father in the Holy Spirit.

3. **Prayer** – A relationship needs to have two directions: talking and listening. Since prayer is the essential means of our relationship with God, the place where we meet God and experience his love, talking and listening are necessary as well. As followers of Jesus, we pray communally as in our Eucharistic liturgy, but also privately, in our inner room. Daily personal conversational prayer is key to fostering our relationship with Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*

4. **Word** – God communicates his Word to us in many ways, but primarily through the Scriptures and the Church. With the help of the Holy Spirit and the context of lived experience, or tradition, of the Church, when we read and meditate on his Word, we get to know him more and become closer to him. *Psalm 119:105*

Horizontal Axis – represents our relationships with other people as members of Christ’s body.

5. **Community** - The Holy Spirit binds followers of Jesus together in love. Jesus did not intend for us to live what he asks of us all on our own. We need one another for support, encouragement and accountability. Be part of a small Christian community, Bible study or prayer groups at your church. *Matthew 19:20*
6. **Evangelization** - is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with people. We witness to the truth of the Gospel by how we live, what we say and how we live in love with others. The Church exists to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. When we are following Jesus we want to share with others the joy, peace and love we have found in Him. It is a natural result of our life in Him. *Romans 1:16*
7. **Outer Rim: Obedience to Christ and His Church**- Obedience, or living out Christ’s relationship in our attitudes and actions, keeps it all together. God gives us the Scriptures and the Church to help us know how best to follow Him. Everything God has asked of us is for one purpose: that we might love Him and love one another as Christ loves us. *John 14:21*

“All of these tasks are necessary... These tasks are interdependent and develop together... To fulfill its tasks, catechesis avails of two principal means: transmission of the Gospel message and experience of the Christian life...” (GDC 87)

Habits of Discipleship: The Discipleship Wheel

The discipleship wheel is a tool to help us “categorize” the different habits of discipleship in such a way as to be able to grow in our relationship with God. It helps us to know where to begin to set realistic, concrete goals, while not getting overwhelmed. The Discipleship Wheel’s categories run parallel with the tasks of catechesis, listed in the GDC, 84-87.

Tasks correspond to habits of the life of discipleship, together with suggested Scripture and CCC passages for discussion and meditation.

- Christ at the Center; our Divine filiation: 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 2:20; Rom 8:14-17; Jn 15:1-5; 1 Jn 2:28-3:3; CCC 521, 305, 2830
- Sacramental life = liturgical education: 1 Pt 2:5; Acts 2:41-42; Rom 6:1-11; Jn 6:22-69; CCC 1127-1129, 1324-1327, 1382-1405, 1427-1432, 1450-1460, 1468-1470
- Prayer = teaching to pray: Phil 4:6-7; Mt 6:6; Mk 1:34-39; CCC 2559-2565, 2626-2643, 2650-2672, 2697, 2705-2708, 2725-2745
- Word = promoting knowledge of the faith: (specifically devotion to Sacred Scripture and establishing the habit of spiritual reading) 2 Tim 3:16; Heb 4:12; Ps 119:105; CCC 2653-2654; Dei Verbum 25; CCC 131-133; (doctrine in general) CCC 88-89;
- Obedience to Christ and His Church = moral formation: Rom 12:2; Jn 14:20-21; CCC 1691, 1694, 1776-1794, 1971-1972, 2030-2034
- Community = education for community life: Heb 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47; Mt 18:20; CCC 953
- Evangelization = missionary initiation: Mt 4:19, 5:13-16; 10:26-27; Lk 1:39-56; 14:16-23; 15:3-7; Rom 1:16; Jn 4:3-43; CCC 831, 849-856, 863, 905

One should become familiar with books to recommend for each of the parts of the wheel to recommend for spiritual reading. Since many people struggle with daily prayer (“don’t have time” or “don’t know how”), you will likely be dealing with this first. Some books to recommend for PRAYER: *Time for God* by Fr. Jacques Philippe; *Prayer Primer* by Fr. Thomas Dubay, *Prayer for Beginners* by Peter Kreeft. DO NOT recommend a book you have not read yourself; and be prepared to read with or walk alongside with.

“All of these tasks are necessary... These tasks are interdependent and develop together... To fulfill its tasks, catechesis avails of two principal means: transmission of the Gospel message and experience of the Christian life...” (GDC 87)

EXERCISE:

- 1) Make columns for each of the tasks
- 2) Fill in your current habits with as much detail as necessary.
- 3) What do you see?
- 4) Choose one task to work on. Make one concrete goal to work on until it becomes habitual.

Examples of goals that are NOT concrete: I’m going to pray more. I’m going to try to make it to Mass more. I’m going to try to go to Confession more. I’m going to read ___ book. I’m going to work on receiving Communion more fruitfully.

Examples of goals that ARE concrete: I’m going to do mental prayer for 20 min a day. I’m going to make it to Mass one day a week in addition to Sunday. I’m going to go to Confession at least once a month. I’m going to read ___ book for spiritual reading 10 min a day. I’m going to make it to church at least 10 min before Mass begins to prepare for Mass to receive Communion more fruitfully.



INTENTIONAL
MINISTRY

PERSON-TO-PERSON

CONNECTION TO CHRIST



Discipleship Wheel - Personal Reflection

Using this guide, prayerfully reflect on your lived relationship with Jesus. Take a moment to pray and acknowledge the presence of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you make an honest examination and trust in His Mercy and love.

Christ at the center: In a few words or lines, describe your relationship with Jesus.

Is He at the center of your life right now? If so, how? If not, why?

The heart and habits of a disciple: Describe how you live out each dimension of your relationship with God by listing your current habits for each column. Use as much detail as necessary to make an honest and helpful examination.

Sacraments	Prayer	Scripture	Community	Evangelization	Obedience

Looking at the columns, what do you see?

Ask Jesus, "What do you see and where can I give more of myself to you?"

Resolution: Choose ONE column. Set ONE goal in that column to grow. This goal should be concrete and specific. "I want to pray more" doesn't work. "I want to pray for 15 minutes a day using the Gospel of the day" works. "I want to go to Mass more" doesn't work either. "I want to go to Mass one more day a week than I currently go," works. A helpful standard for goal setting is S.M.A.R.T goals. Specific, Measurable (for how long? How much?), Achievable, Relevant (to your current state in life), Time Bound (when will you begin? How often will you do it?).