Welcome!

New Evangelization

Session 2: Proposing and Re-Proposing Christ
How can I give away the faith I have received?
Universal Call to Holiness & Mission

The baptismal call to Evangelize: “Bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation… the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of the person in faith, which are both works of the Spirit of God.” (GMD, n. 10)

The call for a New Evangelization: Re-proposing Christ and helping people re-connect with the Church, amid “the progressive secularization of society and a sort of 'eclipse of the sense of God.'” (Benedict XVI)
Session Schedule

- Opening Prayer
- Paired Activity
- **Talk #1**: Disciples Called to Witness
- Standing Activity
- **Talk #2**: The *Catechism* & the New Evangelization
- Small Group Activity
- Closing Prayer
Opening Prayer: Philippians 2:5-11

"Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Amen!
“Jesus, remember me...”

“...when you come into your Kingdom.”
Paired Discussion

• Discuss how you have witnessed to your faith in one concrete situation—such as in your workplace, your family, your neighborhood, or your local community.

• What are some challenges you’ve encountered? What are some barriers to the New Evangelization?
Talk #1:
Disciples Called to Witness (usccb.org)

• "The Church exists in order to evangelize."
  (Pope Paul VI)

• Evangelization is essentially a matter of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and salvation for all people through Jesus Christ; it is a matter of bearing witness to God's Revelation in Jesus through the Holy Spirit.
“Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord." (St. Augustine)

Contemporary Challenges:
- Secularism (“Religion is purely private”… “Keep God in the box”)
- Materialism (“Things were made to be loved, not …”; “Whoever has the most toys…”)
- Individualism (“My will be done!”)

Fundamental Reality: The human person desires to be evangelized, longs for more…
"The Redeemer of man, Jesus Christ, is the centre of the universe and of history."

- "No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.” (JP II)

- **Introduction to Christ** (Steve Harvey)

- "Our hope is not in a program or philosophy but in the person of Jesus Christ, who comforts those who are burdened." (DCTW)
How? A Culture of Witness!

• “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” (Jn 13:34)

• "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses...” (Paul VI)
Methodologies for Creating a Culture of Witness

1. **Discipleship**: create an atmosphere of "apprenticeship"

2. **A Commitment to the Christian Life**: Service understood as serving Christ in others

3. **Parish Life**: in the parish, one becomes engaged with the Church community, learns how to become a disciple, is nurtured by Scripture, is nourished by the sacraments, and ultimately becomes an evangelizer.

4. **The Liturgical Life of the Church**: Popular Devotions: “The prayers, popular devotions, and liturgies of the Church form the basis of 'Catholic culture'”.

5. **The Christian Family**: married love participates in Trinitarian love...The family is the domestic Church.

6. **Catechists and Teachers of the Faith**: oversee sacramental preparation, support the formation of consciences, and develop a love of prayer in those they catechize.

7. **Religious Experience**: Human experience provides the “sensible signs” that help us come to know ourselves, one another, and God.
Holiness & Discipleship

• **Daily Conversion**: "Before one can evangelize, one must be evangelized."

• **Divinization**: "The Word became flesh … that we, partaking of his Spirit, might be deified" (St. Athanasius)
**Standing Activity:**
**Creating a “Culture of Witness”**

Brainstorm and then improvise/role-play scenarios in which people introduce others to Christ or share the faith of the Church. Consider some of the following roles, settings, and topics; mix and match or create your own combinations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighbors</td>
<td>Block Party</td>
<td>Going to Church on Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Friends</td>
<td>Class reunion</td>
<td>Church teaching on X, Y or Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-workers</td>
<td>Company picnic</td>
<td>Religious liberty issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cousins</td>
<td>Family reunion</td>
<td>Interest in spiritual life</td>
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<td>Parishioners</td>
<td>Committee meeting</td>
<td>Church work &amp; the Gospel</td>
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* How can we "propose" or "re-propose" the Good News?

* How can we invite and encourage others to "come and see" the beauty of the Christian life (cf. Jn 1:46)?
Talk #2: The Catechism & New Evangelization

- From “Why,” “How” and “Who” ... to “What”? 

- The universal *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992): Fruit of the Second Vatican Council
First Universal Catechism
St. Augustine (354-430 AD)

Council of Trent (1545-63 AD)

Vatican Council (1962-65)
The Deposit of the Faith

• The *symphony* of the faith

• **Christo-centric** (and Trinitarian)

• Witness of Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium (teaching office of the Bishops in communion with the Pope)
The CCC & the Christian Mystery

Acts 2:42: "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers."

The Four Pillars:
1) "The Profession of Faith“—The Creed
2) "The Celebration of the Christian Mystery“—the Sacraments
3) "Life in Christ“—Ten Commandments
4) "Christian Prayer“—the Our Father
Overview of the Catechism & Preview of “Foundations”

The human desire for God; God’s Self Revelation; our Faith Response

I. Profession of Faith
II. Celebration of the Christian Mystery
III. Moral Life in Christ
IV. Christian Prayer
The Human Capacity for God

• “The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself” (CCC, n. 27).

• Knowledge of God through nature, human reason and the human person

• We search for God, but God comes to us....
God Comes to Meet Man

- God reveals himself in his Word made flesh, Jesus Christ: “He has thus provided the definitive, superabundant answer to the questions that man asks himself about the meaning and purpose of his life” (CCC, n. 68).

- Transmission of Divine Revelation: Scripture and Tradition

- The Magisterium (teaching office of the Church, i.e., the Pope and Bishops in communion with him): the authentic interpreter of the deposit of faith.
Faith: The Human Response to God

- Believing in God and loving him with all our being
- Coming to know God’s greatness and majesty
- Living in thanksgiving
- Knowing the unity and true dignity of all persons
- Making good use of created things
Scripture and Tradition

• “Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, then, are bound closely together and communicated one with the other....Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ...” (CCC, n. 80)

• “The whole body of the faithful ... cannot err in matters of belief. This characteristic is shown in the supernatural appreciation of faith (sensus fidei) on the part of the whole people, when, ‘from the bishops to the last of the faithful’ they manifest a universal consent in matters of faith and morals.” (CCC, n. 92)

• Scripture and Tradition tell us where we have been, where we are, and where we are going.
Principles of Biblical Interpretation (DV, n. 12)

1. Be attentive to the “content and unity of the whole Scripture”

2. Read Scripture within “the living Tradition of the Whole Church”

3. Be attentive to the “analogy of faith”
The New Evangelization & the Revolution of the Gospel

• Triune God: Three divine Persons in One nature, substance or essence

• “God is Love” (1 Jn 4): God is the Lover, the Beloved, and the shared Love that binds them

• Fr. Barron on St. Paul & the Revolution of the Gospel
Foundations of the Faith: Fostering Life-long Learning & Devout Disciples

I. New Evangelization
   Session 1: Encountering Christ and Being Sent
   Session 2: Proposing and Re-Proposing Christ

II. Methods of Faith Formation
   Session 1: Understanding Students and Leading Them to Christ
   Session 2: Planning an Engaging Catechetical Session

III. The Creed
   Session 1: I Believe in God the Father
   Session 2: I Believe in Jesus Christ
   Session 3: I Believe in the Holy Spirit

IV. The Sacraments
   Session 1: The Sacramental Economy & The Liturgy
   Session 2: The Sacraments of Initiation
   Session 3: The Sacraments of Healing
   Session 4: The Sacraments of Service

V. Moral Life in Christ
   Session 1: The Vocation of the Human Person
   Session 2: The Commandments-Love of God
   Session 3: The Commandments-Love of Neighbor

VI. Christian Prayer
   Session 1: Prayer in the Christian Life
   Session 2: The Lord’s Prayer— “Our Father”
“Spiritual progress tends toward ever more intimate union with Christ. This union is called ‘mystical’ because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments—‘the holy mysteries’—and in him, in the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

God calls us all to this intimate union with him, even if the special graces or extraordinary signs of this mystical life are granted only to some for the sake of manifesting the gratuitous gift given to all. The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle.”

(CCC, n. 2014-2015)
Small Group Activity: Catechism “Scavenger Hunt”

1) Which of the Four Parts of the CCC reference this teaching?

2) What support do they find for the Doctrine from Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium?

3) What is one interesting point that they would like to share about their topic?

- The Blessed Trinity
- The Incarnation
- Creation
- The Fall
- Christ's Redemptive Death
- The Resurrection
- The Eucharist
- Reconciliation or Penance
- Apostolic Succession
- Mary the Mother of God
How can I give away the faith I have received?
Follow-up Reflection and Resources

1) Session Evaluation & Feedback

2) Recommended follow-up:
   US/CCA, Cha. 3,
   "Proclaim the Gospel to Every Creature"

3) For Catechists & Catholic School Teachers:
   “Record of Formation,” including:
   required reflection & documentation

4) Additional links and resources:

www.dioceseofjoliet.org/evangelization/instituteResources
Closing Prayer

Breathing Prayer: “Come, Holy Spirit” (inhaling)…..
“Fill the hearts of your faithful” (exhaling)

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.