

**The Church's Essential Mission**

"The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize."  
*(On Evangelization in the Modern World, 14)*

**Definition of Evangelization**

"To evangelize is to bear witness, in a simple and direct way, to God revealed by Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit."  
*(On Evangelization in the Modern World, 26)*



**"Evangelization"**

"We use the word *evangelization* because its root meaning is *Gospel* (good news) and because it calls us, even if uncomfortably, to live the faith of our baptism more openly and share it more freely."  
*(Go and Make Disciples)*

- You Shall Be My Witnesses**
- Our history in the Archdiocese.
  - Defining Catholic Evangelization.
  - Our vision for the Archdiocese.
  - Implementation of the vision.

**SIGN ME UP!**

In 1997 the Archdiocese of Detroit hired Fr. Jesse De Porres Cox, O.P., to lead an evangelization initiative on the eastside of Detroit. Judy Willis came on board as Fr. Jesse's secretary and assistant.

## SIGN ME UP!

Fr. Dan Havron, O.F.M., worked with Fr. Jesse at the beginning of Sign Me Up!, but later worked as the Evangelization Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Detroit.



## SIGN ME UP!



Seminarians were recruited from SHMS during the summer months.

## SIGN ME UP!



Fr. Jesse held training sessions every third Saturday from September to June.

## SIGN ME UP!



Marches and parades through neighborhoods made the local parishes visible and involved in the needs of the community.

## SIGN ME UP!



Door-to-door ministry was the heart and soul of Sign Me Up!

## SIGN ME UP! Grows The Team from 2004-2007



Mary DelPup



Paco Gavrilides



Dcn. Alex Jones

**Mobile Evangelization Team  
2007**



Paco Gavrilides



Fr. Alex Kratz



Judy Maten



**DEFINING  
CATHOLIC  
EVANGELIZATION**

**Classic Protestant "Evangelism"**

Has as its goal sharing the Gospel *only* with those who have not heard nor responded to the Gospel.



(Romans 10:14)

**Catholic Evangelization**

**Reaches out to 6 groups:**

1. Active Catholics
2. Nominal Catholics
3. Inactive Catholics
4. Catholic Children
5. Other Christians
6. Non-Christians

**Catholic Evangelization**

**1. To active Catholics,  
Evangelization is:  
A call to ongoing conversion.**

**Catholic Evangelization**

**2. To nominal Catholics,  
Evangelization is:  
A call to hear the Gospel anew  
(re-evangelization).**

	<b>Catholic Evangelization</b>
	<p><b>3. To inactive Catholics, Evangelization is: A call to reconciliation.</b></p>

	<b>Catholic Evangelization</b>
	<p><b>4. To our children, Evangelization is: A call to be formed into disciples through the family's faith life and religious education.</b></p>

	<b>Catholic Evangelization</b>
	<p><b>5. To other Christians, Evangelization is: A call to the fullness of the Catholic faith.</b></p>

	<b>Catholic Evangelization</b>
	<p><b>6. To non-Christians, Evangelization is: A call to conversion to know Christ Jesus and thus experience a change to new life with Christ and His Church.</b></p>

	<b>Catholic Evangelization</b>
	<p><b>3 Components:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Witness (Lives of holiness).</b></li> <li><b>2. Word (Sharing the Gospel).</b></li> <li><b>3. Service (Ministry of charity).</b></li> </ol>

	<b>You Shall Be My Witnesses</b>
	<p><b>OUR VISION FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT</b></p>

	<b>You Shall Be My Witnesses</b>
	<p>Our vision flows from the Bishops' National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States, <i>Go and Make Disciples</i>.</p> <p>Their 3 Goals are ...</p>

	<b>GOAL 1</b>
	<p>To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.</p>

	<b>GOAL 2</b>
	<p>To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith.</p>

	<b>GOAL 3</b>
	<p>To foster Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.</p>

	<b>Our Philosophy</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Approach evangelization as a <b><i>lifestyle</i></b> rather than as a program.</li> <li>■ Create <b><i>evangelizers</i></b> rather than new evangelization techniques.</li> <li>■ Root evangelization in <b><i>interior conversion</i></b> through <b><i>a personal relationship with Jesus Christ</i></b>.</li> </ul>

	<b>Our Spirituality</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Love:</b> "<i>The love of Christ compels us.</i>" (2 COR. 5:14-15)</li> <li>2. <b>Holy Spirit:</b> Being docile to and guided by the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>3. <b>Fervor:</b> Undaunted and joy-filled witness.</li> </ol>

	<b>You Shall Be My Witnesses</b>
	<b>IMPLEMENTING OUR VISION</b>

	<b>Our Objectives</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Form lay leadership</b> for effective evangelization.</li> <li>2. <b>Assist parishes</b> in incorporating evangelization concepts within already existing programs; ex. RCIA, adult faith formation, Christian service.</li> <li>3. <b>Equip parishes</b> with the tools and methodology necessary to create parishes in which evangelization is a vital component.</li> </ol>

	<b>Our Approach</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet with parish leadership.</li> <li>2. A 3-day parish mission.</li> <li>3. 8-week formation sessions.</li> <li>4. Establish evangelization committee.</li> <li>5. 6 Months consultation (or more).</li> </ol>

	<b>STEP 1 Meet with Parish Leadership</b>
	<p>The Evangelization Team meets with the parish leadership (pastor, staff, parish council and the 4 commissions) to set forth the archdiocesan Strategic Plan of Evangelization: <i>You Shall Be My Witnesses</i>.</p>

	<b>STEP 2 3-Day Parish Mission</b>
	<p>The Evangelization Team will hold a 3-day parish mission, the goal of which is to (1) raise awareness of the Church's essential mission and (2) enkindle the hearts of the faithful to fully embrace this call to evangelization.</p>

	<b>STEP 3 8-Week Formation Sessions</b>
	<p>The 8-week formation sessions are designed for the integral formation of lay evangelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Instructive:</b> Education in basic evangelization principles, understanding the content of the Gospel and relevant Church documents.</li> <li>2. <b>Formative:</b> Practicing, sharing, and partaking in evangelization exercises.</li> </ol>

## 8 Formation Session Topics

1. Who Is Jesus?
2. The Call to Holiness & Ongoing Conversion
3. The Call to Discipleship
4. Catholic Evangelization
5. The Role of the Holy Spirit & Prayer
6. Sharing Our Faith & Using Sacred Scripture
7. Listening with Compassionate Hearts & The Call to Love
8. Becoming a Welcoming Parish

## STEP 4 Establishing Evangelization Committee

The Evangelization Team will assist the parish leadership in discerning and establishing an Evangelization Committee, consisting of active Catholics with a real enthusiasm for their faith and the ability to draw people into the love of Jesus and the Catholic way of life.

Forming the committee will include...

- Discernment of gifts
- Diversity of membership
- Availability

## STEP 5 Ongoing Consultation

One member of the Evangelization Team will be assigned as the consultant to the parish for 6 months (or more) to assist parish leadership and the Evangelization Committee in developing and implementing their evangelization plan.

## NO SILVER BULLET!



- No instant success
- No one plan fits all
- Degree of success depends on the involvement of the parish

## You Shall Be My Witnesses

"The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who is thirsty, come, let him who desires take the water of life without price."

(Revelation 22:17)

## The Church's Essential Mission

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(*On Evangelization in the Modern World*, 14)