



Welcome!



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Meeting Topic: Creating Vibrant, Evangelizing Parishes
Presenter: Frs. Frank DeSiano, CSP and Kenneth Boyack, CSP
Date: 27 June 2013 3:00 pm ET
Audio: Available only through internet (computer speakers or headset)

Technical difficulties call: 800-237-5515



Creating Vibrant, Evangelizing Parishes




Prayer for the New Evangelization

Loving God,
you called us each by name and gave your only Son to redeem us. In your faithfulness, you sent the Holy Spirit to complete the mission of Jesus among us.

Open our hearts to Jesus. Give us the courage to speak his name to those who are close to us and the generosity to share his love with those who are far away.

We pray that every person throughout the world be invited to know and love Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. May they come to know his all-surpassing love. May that love transform every element of our society.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



New Evangelization


- Name with a pedigree that goes back to 1983
- Addressed to First World primarily, where faith has spread but has become "tired"
- "New" in that it refers to the new situation in which the Church finds herself






Synod on the New Evangelization

- Convoled in October 2012
- Response to decline of practice of faith mostly in the First World
- 260+ bishops from 5 continental areas
- Ecumenical guests
- Connected with the inauguration of the Year of Faith





Year of Faith



- Year of Faith begun during the Synod
- A year to concentrate not only on the contents of faith, but also on the state of faith today
- Need for Catholics personally to renew their faith
- Need for Catholics to invite others to discover Jesus Christ in our Catholic tradition
- Will continue until November 24, 2013



YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013






What does today's situation say about vibrant, evangelizing parishes?




PARISH Involvement

- Pre-1960 cohort largely populates our churches on Sunday
- Post-1960 cohort is largely missing (over 60% mostly not worshipping)
- Millennials are even more absent (80% tend not to be in church)
- 20% of Americans claim "none" as their religious preference








U.S. Catholic Populations and Parish Life, 2010




Category	Number
Catholic at some point in life	96,946,000
Now identify as Catholic	74,470,000
Household has registered parishioner	58,272,000
Attending Mass Christmas & Easter	50,640,000
Attending Mass once a month	36,490,300
Attending Mass weekly	17,873,000
Adults very involved in parish outside of Mass	2,979,000
Lay Ecclesial Ministers	37,929

Source: Mark M. Gray, May 11, 2012, in 1964, the CARA Blog (nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com)






U.S. Catholics per Parish, 2010





Category	Number
Catholic at some point in life	5,452
Now identify as Catholic	4,188
Household has registered parishioner	3,277
Attending Mass Christmas & Easter	2,848
Attending Mass once a month	2,052
Attending Mass weekly	1,005
Adults very involved in parish outside of Mass	168
Lay Ecclesial Ministers	2

Source: Mark M. Gray, May 11, 2012, in 1964, the CARA Blog (nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com)



Maintenance to mission

- Parishes have an acquired way of acting
- These ways of acting have plusses and minuses
- The book *Rebuilt* is selling wildly because it names the problem: we see parish as primarily serving those who come, with dynamics shrunk down to those who come
- How can our parishes become evangelizing?

Traits of a vibrant parish


- Effective liturgies
- Life-long formation into discipleship
- Developing small-group processes
- Extending faith to everyday life, particularly families
- Emphasizing younger generations
- Reaching out to less-than-active Catholics and those who have no faith
- Strong catechumenal process




Pastoral Strategy


The New Evangelization . . . new methods of evangelization and renewal of the pastoral structures, to be able to move from a pastoral strategy of maintenance to a pastoral position that is truly missionary. (Synod, 2012, Prop. 22)




The heart of faith





Having a personal encounter with Jesus Christ



Encounter with Christ





- Heart of New Evangelization: renewed, or new, encounter with Jesus Christ bringing people into relationship with him
- We have to re-think our methods of inquiry and initial catechesis!



Encounter




Furthermore it calls the Church to reach out to those who are far from God and the Christian community to invite them to once again hear the Word of God in order to encounter the Lord Jesus in a new and profound way. (Synod, 2012, Prop. 6)





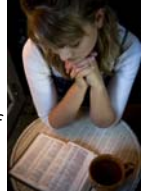


Encountering Christ Through Living the Eucharist

- Renewed experience of the Mass as key to conversion and discipleship
- Enriched by sharing in small groups
- Extending insights of the Eucharist into the family's daily life
- Developing processes for teens
- Calling all parishioners to conversion and a deeper experience of worship
- Involving the whole parish in prayer

Living the Eucharist

- Helping parishioners deepen their experience of the **WORD** of God
- Daily devotional: focus on conversion, on the upcoming readings, and deeper symbolism of the Eucharist
- Using *lectio divina* to involve parishioners in an encounter with Jesus through the **WORD**
- Parishioners rated every element of Living the Eucharist as **very good** or **excellent**








What Living the Eucharist Participants are saying

My small group experience was awesome! I have and continue to feel the awesome presence of Christ in my heart and soul.
 -Parishioner, Youngstown, OH

Reading *From Exodus to Easter* each morning, and meditating on the topics presented, carried me through Lent in a very special way. I felt God's presence in me so strongly.
 -Parishioner, Round Lake, NY


I had never practiced *lectio divina* and I felt very comfortable and filled with the Holy Spirit as I read the reading again and again.
 -Parishioner, Lake City, TN

Synod 2012

The younger Churches are working to enliven parishes which are oftentimes extensive, animating them internally through a program, depending on geographic and ecclesial contexts, called "Basic Christian Communities" or "Small Christian Communities". Their stated purpose is to foster a Christian life which is better capable of sustaining the faith of their members. . .
(Instrumentum Laboris, #80)



Small Communities

- Bishops, mostly from Third World countries, expressed importance of small communities
- Important ways in which people share faith and in which parish can be organized
- Organized also for apostolic activity and for charity




Small Christian Communities

Small Christian Communities provide an ideal pastoral context to establish and develop lay ministries. One of the most significant differences between traditional Catholic Associations and Small Christian Communities resides in the apostolic orientation of the latter.





Archbishop Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, C.M., Metropolitan of Addis Abeba, (Ethiopia)



Living the Eucharist

- Very successful adaptation of small Christian sharing groups
- 90% of parishioners rate their Living the Eucharist small group experience as **excellent** or **very good**
- Groups focus both on discussion and on shared prayer
- Strong desire of many to continue Living the Eucharist next Lent





Feedback from LE small group members



This was a **GREAT** experience and I look forward to continuing it next Lent!!
 -Parishioner, Jackson Heights, NY



I actually understand the Eucharist now. Even though it's happening a little later than it's probably supposed to, I still find this experience extremely valuable.
 -Teen, Colstrip, MT




Being able to talk about the Eucharist, religion and spirituality with people my own age was new and exciting for me. I think more people in their 20s and 30s should have or make opportunities to talk openly about God and religion in small groups.
 -Parishioner, Chicago, IL

We had some very deep sharing and moments where I believe the Spirit was powerfully present.
 -Parishioner, Cottage Grove, OR




Synod and Family

- Dangers to family life today—modes of secularism, attacks on Church teaching about sexuality
- Difficult situation of many families today due to separation, divorce, single parents—a pastoral issue

Synod and Family

- Frequently mentioned by participants
- Need to revive expressions of faith in family situations
- Importance of family and parents in transmitting of faith today
- Family as “small church” where faith is first learned






Family



- Where the fundamental elements of faith are learned in relationship (love, trust, responsibility, selflessness, obedience, sharing)
- Where faith is communicated in the normal course of family life through prayers and popular piety
- Where the faith of one generation can move to another generation







Family



*Established by the sacrament of matrimony, the **Christian family** as the domestic Church is the locus and first agent in the giving of life and love, the transmission of faith and the formation of the human person according to the values of the gospel.*

(Synod, 2012, Prop. 48)




Living the Eucharist-Families

- Family sharing component is an intrinsic part of Living the Eucharist
- Having a set time and place for families to learn, share, and pray
- Involving children in the family prayer event
- Using signs and symbols from the Mass that children can understand and that families can enshrine
- Involving families in English and Spanish



Synod and the Parish


- Need for parishes to be dynamic centers to support faith for families and small groups
- Look at parish as agent of evangelization
- Reorienting parish to
 - Fundamental mission of evangelization
 - Encounter with Christ
 - Conversion
 - Sharing




Parish

The parish . . . should animate its members to become agents of the New Evangelization, witnessing through both their words and their lives. For this reason, it is important to remember that the parish remains the usual environment for the spiritual life of the parishioners.



(Synod, 2012, Prop. 44)





*Living
the Eucharist.*



- Powerful renewal in parish life
- Involving many members of the parish – adults, teens, families, homebound
- Centered around the Eucharist as the “source and summit” of Catholic life and mission
- Using lay leadership, and developing new leadership
- Allowing the parish to sharpen its message of renewal during the Lenten season




Laity

The laity cooperate in the Church's work of evangelization, as witnesses and at the same time as living instruments they share in her saving mission (cf. Ad gentes, 41). Therefore the Church values the gifts that the Spirit is making to every baptized for the construction of the body, and should provide adequate encouragement and training to foster their apostolic zeal in the transmission of the faith.


(Synod, 2012, Prop. 45)



Sharing



- Image of “dialogue”
- Sharing done in personal, one-to-one ways about encountering Jesus
- Sharing with those who have grown “tired” in their faith




Laity






- Key partners in New Evangelization
- Help lay people reclaim and share their faith
- Use laity's involvement in world as a way to spread invitation to faith
- Laity have to reclaim role given at Second Vatican Council



Witness

- How well are you able to share your faith with others?
- Do you know your own personal story of faith?
- In what ways would you witness to others about your faith—what situations, what purposes?


Living the Eucharist-Witness

I've learned to share my faith with others. I've always considered it to be private.
 -Parishioner, Fallentimber, PA

This was a powerful program. The group made me feel comfortable in discussing my faith....
 -Parishioner, Hampstead, NH

We talked about trusting in God during trying times. The sharing of personal experiences was enlightening.
 -Parishioner, Haskell, NJ

I now have more confidence in sharing my faith with others.
 -Parishioner, Lake City, TN




Feedback from Parish Leaders about Living the Eucharist

97% said they would attend *Living the Eucharist* if were offered again.
 -Team Coordinator, Hampstead, NH



Our parish had the highest number of participants of any program offered by the parish in recent history.
 -Team Coordinator, Monroe, LA

Paulist Evangelization Ministries has given Catholic parishes around the United States a magnificent gift in *Living the Eucharist*.
 -Team Coordinators, Round Lake, NY




Learn more at www.LivingtheEucharist.org

Parish Starter Kit and Parish Resource Pack



LOWER PRICE!
 Year A (Lent 2014) NOW Available

Includes ground shipping and Handling!

Order today at LivingtheEucharist.org/store






 **New Evangelization**


- Implements Second Vatican Council
- “New Evangelization” began with this Council, as proposed by Pope John XXIII
- Still unpacking riches of Council, especially in its four constitutions on Liturgy, Revelation, the Church, and the Church in Modern World



Up Next...

 **YEAR OF FAITH**
Webinar
Series

The Urgent Need to Proclaim the Gospel
Thursday, July 18 at 2pm ET
Frs. Frank DeSiano and Kenneth Boyack

 Check out the schedule at
www.PEMDC.org/YearOfFaith