

Dear Friends in Christ,

Who is God? How does God work in this world? Who am I? To have questions is to be human. To find the answers in Jesus Christ is to believe, and to follow in belief is to be His Disciple.

The presence of Jesus Christ in our lives is witnessed through everyday experiences. Through these experiences, God in Jesus Christ is encouraging us to love God and to know God's love for us. But our senses are imperfect and there can be times when God seems absent from our lives and there seems to be no hope.

That is why I have directed the undertaking of the Evangelization Initiative throughout our Archdiocese. Through it, I invite and encourage you to look closely at your lives. Look at every moment and recognize where Jesus and his Gospel are active. I invite you to share the resulting stories with each other through the small faith-sharing groups of the Initiative. I am firmly convinced that by doing so, the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to discover the many ways Jesus Christ is present in our lives, transform us, and bring us to that place of witness where our very lives affirm that "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, D.D.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL
AND MINNEAPOLIS

EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVE



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WHAT IS THE EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVE?

The initiative is an invitation to every person in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to enter into a process of guided reflection and examination that lead them in steps through:

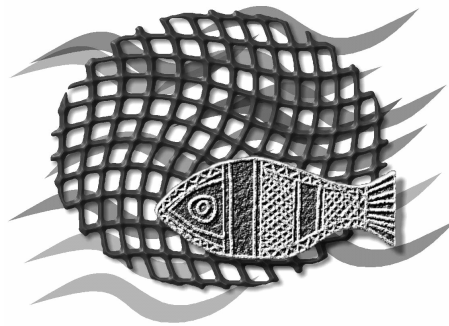
- **Awakening:** a renewed consciousness of Jesus Christ present in daily life
- **Transformation/Conversion:** personal and communal, that leads to ongoing commitment to life in Jesus Christ on the basis of the Gospel
- **Witness:** personal and communal, through which Jesus Christ is made known and loved in daily life.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Every person in each parish and institution in the Archdiocese is invited to join a small faith-sharing group through which they can hear and share stories of God present in the world. Small group gatherings will generally be held during the Lenten season over four successive years. At the end of the four years, each participant will have been ushered through a process of awakening that leads to transformation in Christ and ultimately to deeper commitment of discipleship, the witness of which will be seen through the exercise of each person's unique gifts through myriad ministries and in their everyday lives.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Most every parish in the Archdiocese and many of the Catholic schools and universities have established Core Teams of volunteers who are implementing the initiative with support from the Archdiocesan Office for Evangelization. Get in touch with your parish office to find out who the team members are in your parish or school, and ask to be put in touch with initiative organizers. If your parish doesn't have a Core Team, contact the Office for Evangelization at the Archdiocese for assistance at 651-291-4400, or by e-mail at evangelization@archspm.org



WHY EVANGELIZATION? WHY NOW?

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.”

These are the clear words of Pope Paul VI in his landmark document “*Evangelii Nuntiandi*” issued in 1975. They have been echoed over the last several decades by Pope John Paul II and the message has been adopted and is carried on today by Pope Benedict XVI.

Evangelization occurs, not by the function of a single person or parish committee, but through each person’s choosing to live out the Gospel in every moment. Each disciple of Jesus Christ, by virtue of baptism, is called to this mission. The ways it is carried out are different for each individual, but the motivation is always the same, stemming from one thing—unity in sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

The door is open. Won’t you enter?