

# Evangelization Explained

‘Evangelization’ is not new for Catholics. At its core it is simply what occurs when a person’s faith relationship with Jesus is truly explored, deeply embraced and fully lived, as it was by those in the early Church.

\* \* \*

Evangelizing constitutes the essential mission of the Church today. As Pope Paul VI said in 1975, “Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity.”

\* \* \*

Essential elements of evangelization include:

Hearing the Gospel

Accepting the Gospel

Adhering to the Gospel in every activity of life so as to transform self and culture

Adhering to a view that God’s kingdom is present and expressed in community

Accepting grace through sacraments

Willingness to share the Good News.

(Evangelii Nuntiandi 23-24)

\* \* \*

John Paul II has constantly called for a “new evangelization”. We do this by implementing the Gospel anew – with fresh energy, in the course of our daily lives. And it is a responsibility not of any one group of persons within the Church, but of each and every baptized member. (Bishop Michael Warfel, Juneau, Alaska)

\* \* \*

What each baptized member does with the hours of the day, how we use the abilities we’re blessed with and how we utilize the resources we control expresses how well we understand ourselves as a Eucharistic Body – a body that is to be broken and shared for the world. (Bishop Michael Warfel, Juneau, Alaska)

\* \* \*

The Archdiocesan Evangelization Initiative is geared toward improving our understanding that the choices we make speak volumes about who we are. Its aim is to awaken us to the presence of Jesus Christ alive in our hearts so we can come alive individually and as a community. To get our bearings in the midst of a fast and stormy world so we can refocus, get energized in the Spirit to live the Christian identity we are called to by our baptism.