



Go and Make Disciples: A Vision and a Plan

How-tos

1. How to draw attention to the need for evangelization:
 - Plan a short reflection, or witness, to be given after the homilies at Sunday liturgies to rouse interest in evangelization. Ask hospitality workers to hand out printed explanations (for example, *Everyday Evangelizing for Everyday Catholics*, an attractive trifold that presents practical ways to evangelize in all situations—the home, parish, workplace. Available online: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/everyday.html>) and to sign people up for parish meetings on the topic.
 - Encourage small Christian communities to discuss: the fact that all small Christian communities should be involved in evangelization, the various ways they already evangelize, how small communities are an ideal place for evangelization, and how small communities, through evangelization (the fostering of gospel values), need to be involved in transforming society.¹
2. How to offer a brainstorming session to explore the evangelizing mission of the Church:
 - Establish a comfortable level of communication around this topic by affirming the ways that evangelization is already happening in the parish.
 - Solicit ideas for a parish-wide discussion from various groups that may already be involved in evangelization, such as: the staff, prayer groups, evangelization ministry, hospitality, and greeters, and the peace and justice group.
 - Be sensitive to the various understandings people have of evangelization. Foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and openness to learning. Some may have false or negative views about evangelization. Be sure to distinguish evangelizing from proselytizing.
 - Prioritize ideas and approaches from the brainstorming session.
 - Select one or two ideas and assign ways of following up on them. Select a next meeting date for further discussion and action.
3. How to draw up parish guidelines and goals for evangelization that reflect the Church's goals.
 - Establish a task force or committee to review both Church documents and the cultural identity and traditions of the local community. Consider the pros and cons for establishing an evangelization ministry or giving future direction to an existing ministry. (See the U.S. Catholic Bishops' document, *Go and Make Disciples*.)
 - Invite the comments of anyone interested in participating in the planning.
 - Be sure that a final copy of the guidelines and goals is available to all participants and to members of ministry groups.
 - Set deadlines throughout the process.
4. Look for more information and evidence of successful evangelization efforts in your parish or (arch)diocese. Contact national organizations for lists of the nearest members (see the Web site links in the "Links and Resources" pages at www.ParishLife.com).
5. Team up with other parishes in the deanery or (arch)diocese for an informal day about parish evangelization. Ask participants to bring examples of programs that are engaging and helpful.
6. Contact your parish, (arch)diocesan, or national office responsible for evangelization. Look for opportunities to attend workshops, bring in a speaker or offer further study on the topic to parishioners. (Contact Mike Fabian at SCCServices@renewintl.org or 908-769-5400.) For example, consider downloading the Parish Life workshop, "Go and Make Disciples: A Vision and a Plan"; see www.ParishLife.com

¹ National Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States* (Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 1993), p. 8.