

Evangelization: to take out the message

<http://richardperozich.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/bringemback1-15.pdf>

<http://www.richardperozich.com>

In the gospel of Matthew Jesus said that He came for the lost sheep of the tribe of Israel.

While the gospel is for the whole world, Catholics can start evangelizing lapsed Catholics to get them back to Mass first, get them to confession, receive the Eucharist, and then be integrated back into the church in faith and morals, word, sacrament, and charity.

The 15 article series, “Bring’em Back” is the source of this talk and says much more than this brief presentation can provide. I suggest it be read 1 chapter a day for 15 days to absorb the material, let it sink in, and then be put into practice by you with the Holy Spirit in your unique way.

The links to it and to much more information on the website are above.

What is the message?

1 Cor 15:3-4 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures;

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Romans 3:24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jn 3:5 “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

Jn 6 53-57 Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

Jn 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

Where did it come from?

Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

Jn 12:49-51 I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his

commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me.”

Who takes it out?

1 Cor 9:16-17 If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

Matt 10:32-33 Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father

Rom 10 13-17 For “everyone who **calls** on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they **call** on him in whom they have not **believed**? And how can they **believe** in him of whom they have not **heard**? And how can they **hear** without someone to **preach**? And how can people **preach** unless they are **sent**? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring [the] good news!” But not everyone has heeded the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?” **Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

Why is it taken out?

1Tim 2:3-6 This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all

To whom is it directed?

Mt 28:18-20 Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and **make disciples of all nations, baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

How is it done?

1: **Our responsibility** is to share the good news of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

2: **God is responsible** for convicting the hearer of the good news to the truth.

3: **The hearer of the good news is responsible** for responding to the truth.

Keep this in mind. **Your responsibility is to make the effort.** God is responsible for “convicting the hearer of the good news to the truth.” This will likely be done in God’s time, according to His plan, not yours.

8 tips for evangelizing, or, in this case, re-evangelizing.

Tip #1: Prepare in prayer

Put the Blessed Mother and Pope St. John Paul II to work. Ask them for help.

Tip #2: Prepare the soil

Show interest, love, and concern. We never know when someone is going to open up to us.

If the relationship between you and your lapsed Catholic loved one is ‘strained,’ before you try to re-evangelize the individual, you should first work on repairing the relationship.

On the other hand, if you have a good, caring, loving relationship with the person, you've already crossed this bridge.

Tip #3: Be yourself

Some people have a special charism for evangelization, but all Catholics are called to evangelize. Even if you are a quiet person by nature, that's okay! Grace builds on nature, so just be your natural self.

Tip #4: Trust in the Lord

Trust that the Holy Spirit will give you the words.

Tip #5: Look for Natural Openings

Empathize. Show them you are a person of faith, but don't hit them over the head with your faith.

Natural openings come much easier with a loved one, especially if you and your loved one are in the habit of sharing the ups and downs of your lives. Be ready for the opening when it comes!

Tip #6: Be Bold, be Courageous

Be a witness for your faith. God uses us in amazing ways so let our light shine. People are more apt to listen to testimony or witness than they are to a theologian. More important than sharing words when evangelizing (or re-evangelizing) is to share your joy and be a witness for your faith.

Tip #7: What to say?

Fr. Vandenakker believes in the KISS principle – Keep It Simple Stupid!

Most people, he says, have an existential sense that something is wrong inside. We're yearning for something more and nothing earthly will satisfy that, as St. Augustine said. You can zone in on that by saying 'are you really happy?' 'Are you really fulfilled?'

Tip #8: Don't be afraid of rejection

The 'Big 7' Excuses

There are only a couple valid reasons for not attending mass on Sunday. All the other reasons people give for not attending Mass are excuses, plain and simple. And all the excuses might be **boiled down into these seven:**

1. I don't get anything out of Mass; it's boring, the homilies are dull / uninspiring, and besides, I'm too busy to go to Mass.
2. I don't feel welcome at the church in my parish; our parish is too liberal/conservative to suit my tastes.
3. I don't have to go to church to keep the Lord's Day holy.
4. Going to church is just a man-made rule to fill the collection plate.
5. I don't agree with the Church's teachings on sex / contraception / marriage / divorce / homosexuality.
6. The sex abuse scandal was disgusting. I don't go to church now because every time I see a priest today I can't help but wonder if he is just another a pedophile pretending to be holy.
7. Organized religion is hogwash; it's full of hypocrites.

They are all just another way of saying, 'I don't feel like going to church,' or 'I don't want to go to church.'

5 P's – Patience, Prayer, Perseverance, Politeness, and Preparedness. Don't be confrontational, ask questions, and **be prepared to listen. Don't lecture.** Your goal is to bring them back, not drive them further away.

Have the Conversation

Jesus tells us in John 15:5: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

We cannot remain in Him and Him in us unless we receive him in the Eucharist at Mass.