

**THE NEW EVANGELIZATION
FOR THE
TRANSMISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS (2012)

The Gospel, A Gift for Every Person

28. The Gospel of God's love for us, the call to take part in the life of the Father, through Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, is a gift meant for everyone.

The Duty to Evangelize

33. Every person has the right to hear the Gospel of God to humanity, which is Jesus Christ. ... Every man and women should be able to feel drawn into an intimate and transforming relationship which the proclamation of the Gospel creates between us and Christ: To give others the possibility of having a similar experience requires that someone be sent to proclaim it.

34. We can therefore understand how every one of the Church's actions has an essential evangelizing character and must never be separated from the duty to help others encounter Christ in faith, the primary goal of evangelization.

35. The mission of the Apostles and its continuation in the primitive Church remain the basic model for evangelization at all times as a mission often marked by martyrdom, which is witnessed not only at the beginning of the history of Christianity but also in the last century, and even in our own times.

Evangelization and Church Renewal

37. The Church [the laity and clergy] is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself. She is "the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated, the community of brotherly love, and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to the new commandment of love. She is the People of God immersed in the world and often tempted by idols, and she always needs to hear the proclamation of the 'mighty works of God', which converted her to the Lord; she always needs to be called together afresh by him and reunited. In brief, this means that she has a constant need of being evangelized if she wishes to retain freshness, vigor and strength in order to proclaim the Gospel."

TIME FOR A NEW EVANGELIZATION

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation" (Gospel of Mark 16:15)

41. The missionary mandate which the Church received from the Risen Lord (cf. *Mk 16:15*) has assumed new forms and methods over time, depending on the places and situations where it was realized and various moments in history. Even though proclaiming the Gospel in our day is much more complicated than in the past, the Church's task is one and the same as from the very

beginning. Since the mission has not changed, it can be rightly said that we can make our own, even today, the enthusiasm and courage which characterized the Apostles and early disciples. The Holy Spirit, who moved them to throw open the doors of the Cenacle and sent them forth as evangelizers (cf. *Acts* 2: 1-4), is the same Spirit who guides the Church today and prompts a renewed proclamation of hope to the people of our time.

TRANSMITTING THE FAITH

97. The best place to transmit the faith is a community nourished and transformed by the liturgical life and prayer. An intrinsic relationship exists between faith and the liturgy: *lex orandi, lex credendi*. "Without the liturgy and the sacraments, the profession of faith would lack efficacy, because it would lack the grace which supports Christian witness."

91. The Acts of the Apostles (2:42, 46-47) illustrates that a person cannot convey what is not believed, understood or lived. The Gospel cannot be transmitted in a life which is not modelled after the Gospel or a life which does not find its meaning, truth and future based on the Gospel. ... A fruitful proclamation of the Word of the Gospel calls for profound communion among God's children which is a distinguishing sign accompanying proclamation, as St. John the Apostle recalls: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (*John* 13:34, 35).

92. Announcing and proclaiming is not the task of any one person or a select few, but rather a gift given to every person who answers the call to faith.

The transmission of the faith is a fundamental act of the Church, which leads Christian communities to articulate, in a strict sense, the basic works of the life of faith, namely, charity, witness, proclamation, celebration, listening and sharing. Evangelization must be perceived as the process by which the Church, moved by the Spirit, proclaims and spreads the Gospel throughout the world. Evangelization openly proclaims the Gospel and is a call to conversion. As such, the role of the human family is an ideal model for evangelization.

CONCLUSION

The Joy of Evangelizing

167. The new evangelization means giving the reason for our faith, communicating the *Logos* of hope to a world which seeks salvation. People need hope so they can really live the present moment. For this reason, the Church is essentially missionary and offers a Revelation of the face of God in Jesus Christ, who assumed a human face and loved us to the end. The words of eternal life, which have been given to us in our encountering Jesus Christ, are destined for everyone and each individual. Every person in our time, whether he [or she] is aware of it or not, needs to hear this proclamation.

(SR: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20140626_instrumentum-laboris-familia_en.html)