



EVANGELISATION: A Journey of Encounter, Conversion & Discipleship

Evangelisation describes a journey - one that includes an initial, essential proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ (DC 31-32). But it leads us further on the way of salvation, towards membership of the Body of Christ, and a discovery of our personal mission, culminating in our union with God in heaven for eternity.

The following overview can help parishes to picture this journey more clearly;



Witness - Dialogue in Relationship

Much of a parish's contact with people is about building good relationships and witnessing to the love of God - providing them with an important sense of welcome and belonging. This should be done with the view to further inviting a person to encounter Christ, and to grow as a disciple. Think about how your parish can become intentional about your witness – with an eye to the next steps. (DC 33a)

First Proclamation - Invitation to Encounter

We sometimes use the word 'Evangelisation' as a shorthand for this stage of the journey. Parishes can provide information about the faith and build relationships, but if it doesn't involve a proclamation of the Good News (Kerygma) the journey of Evangelisation is missing its heart. Pope Francis summarises this proclamation: “Jesus Christ loves you; He gave His life for you; and now He is living by your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”¹ Proclamation leads people to an encounter with Jesus Christ, especially in Baptism and the Sacraments of Initiation. (DC 33b)

Ongoing Formation – Catechesis & Discipleship

Ongoing formation in Christ's teaching is called catechesis – a word which means to 'echo' the Faith Christ gives to His Church (DC 34-37). 'Disciple' is the name given to a follower of Jesus Christ (Matt 4:19-20), who lives a life of obedience to Him. But a disciple is also sent out in mission by Christ, to make other disciples. (Matt 28:19-20)

Vocation - My Mission

The universal call to holiness (see DC 35) – God's invitation to every Christian – is also manifested in welcoming our particular vocation, or mission. Some people discover it early on, others later in life. All the elements above are vital in helping someone discern their vocation, but just as important is the witness of other Catholic disciples, and the lives of the saints, in whom we see this response to God's call *in action*.