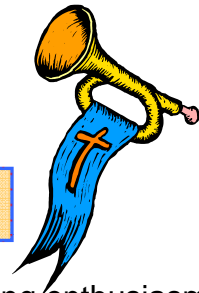


INTERCHANGE

For EVANGELIZATION



Back to Basics: Rekindling the Flame

During the most recent meeting of the Commission on Evangelization (CoE), the group reviewed its history and charter. In the introduction of the charter the three goals of *Go and Make Disciples*, (GAMD), the U.S. Bishop's document of 1992 are outlined. In order to revive the fire of evangelization in ourselves and in the clusters, the meeting focused on how those goals are being put into action. During that process the group surfaced topics for future meetings.

This issue of the Interchange is an opportunity for you to rekindle your own awareness of opportunities for evangelization as well as providing questions and a process for use in your parish or cluster

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

Having discussed past and present evangelization efforts, the group brainstormed evangelization issues that would be the grist of future meetings in 2006.

There was no shortage!

The Commission chose this topic to explore: Developing evangelization strategies that are consistent with and sensitive to the culture(s) we are encountering in our ministry..

Your comments will enrich the discussion:

1. What are the cultures you are currently dealing with?
2. What are your current "points of contact" with those cultures?
3. Please share your experiences in your evangelization efforts..
 - a. What revelations or insights have you had in your dealings with various groups or individuals?
 - b. What cultural *faux pas* have happened?
 - c. What would you do differently?

Contact your CoE representative or email your comments and stories to Lorraine Vancamp lvancamp@glenmary.org

GAMD Goal #1: Developing enthusiasm among Catholics so that in living their faith, they freely share it with others.

The group used two of the sixteen behaviors of effective evangelizers identified in Share Your Faith by Susan Blum – Gerding to revive their evangelizing spirit. Please take a few minutes and reflect on the following.

Evangelizing Behavior: I shared my faith in God with someone.

- ⌘ How many times did you share your faith in God with someone else this week, either in a casual way or in depth? With whom, the circumstances, how...
- ⌘ Can you think of "missed opportunities" this week? What were the circumstances?
- ⌘ How did other people share their faith in God with you this week? Who? What were the circumstances?

Insights from the CoE:

In the business of parish life, do we take the time to look for "missed" opportunities?

We need opportunities both as ministers and parishioners for a more formalized sharing of our faith.

What are your insights as you review the opportunities you took to share your faith and those you missed?



Evangelizing Behavior: I prayed with someone privately or in a small group.

Who asked you to pray for them during this past week? What were the circumstances? Did you pray for them immediately or later?

- ⌘ Whom did you ask to pray for you? What was their response?
- ⌘ Were there any "missed opportunities" to pray with other people during the past six months?

RESOURCE CORNER

Comments from the CoE:

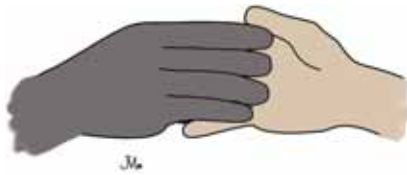
It has to be the right circumstances for praying with someone.
Listen before praying.
People in the South expect us to pray with them immediately.
There are changing expectations among Catholics about spontaneous prayer.

What has been your experience this Lent and Easter time?

How does that experience compare with your habits of praying with others in Ordinary Time?

Questions: Share Your Faith by Susan Blum Gerding Jeremiah Press, 1990.

Complete list of evangelizing behaviors contact Lorraine Vancamp lvancamp@glenmary.org or (615)256-1900x108.



GAMD Goal #2: Inviting all people in the U. S., to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith.

- ⌘ What is happening in your parish? Are parishioners taking the lead in inviting others?
- ⌘ How is the Parish Council planning to maximize its evangelization efforts this spring, summer and fall?
- ⌘ What “unexplored opportunities” are present in your county?

Insights from the CoE:

Meals bring people together and provide opportunities to interact without pressure “to join”.

Sharing brief stories of how people came to the Catholic Church at the parish Mass.

GAMD Goal #3: Fostering gospel values in our society so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

- ⌘ What is happening in your parish? Are parishioners taking the lead in this area?
- ⌘ How do these outreach efforts portray your parish as a community of prayer, praise and worship as well as service?

Insights from the CoE:

Using theater and music helps bring Christian values into the local school system

Reaching out to hurting families by providing help through parenting courses allow many people to experience the spirituality of Catholics.

Inviting Catholics Home: A Parish Program by Sally L. Mews, 2002, \$14.95 Liguori Press, www.liguori.org or www.catholicbooksonline.com

“Once a Catholic, always a Catholic – *if you want to be*” is the motto Sally Mews has for her evangelization process for nonpracticing Catholics.

The Catholic Returning Home process is based on the Twelve Step Program. Each session is carefully outlined as a “managed support group system”. The agenda is laid out so that the meeting is not diverted by participants’ specialized issues and questions.

The six sessions include:

- welcoming;
- allowing participants to vent their feelings and concerns about their experience of church;
- updating their basic Catholic belief and practices;
- helping reconnect participants to the parish as active members.

There is plenty of assistance in this book to do a “cheap, easy, effective” outreach in Glenmary counties!

www.glenmary.org/dps/evang/res_corner

Informing Bertie County that the Catholic Church is HERE!



See how this T-shirt can “fit” into your outreach efforts!

www.glenmary.org/dps/evang/ideas