

St. Louis Church

Inviting the Flock Home

What Stands in the Way of Evangelization?

Since we are doing God's work, it might seem like the work of evangelization should be easy. The reality is there are challenges to face. Jesus faces opposition. To address the challenges, we need to identify them and ask for God's help to address them.

What Stands in Our Way:

- 1) “This faith is nearly always today exposed to secularism, even to militant atheism. It is a faith exposed to trials and threats, and even more, a faith besieged and actively opposed. It runs the risk of perishing from suffocation or starvation if it is not fed and sustained each day. To evangelize must therefore very often be to give this necessary food and sustenance to the faith of believers, especially through a catechesis full of Gospel vitality and in a language suited to people and circumstances” (EN, 54).
- 2) “Here we are thinking of a true secularism: a concept of the world according to which the latter is self-explanatory, without any need for recourse to God, who thus becomes superfluous and an encumbrance. This sort of secularism, in order to recognize the power of man, therefore ends up by doing without God and even by denying Him” (EN, 55).
- 3) “It also springs from the fact that Christians live in close proximity with non-believers and constantly experience the effects of unbelief. Furthermore, the non-practicing Christians of today, more so than those of previous periods, seek to explain and justify their position in the name of an interior religion, of personal independence or authenticity” (EN, 56).
- 4) “The Church does not engage in proselytism. Instead, she grows by “*attraction*” (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Mass for the Opening of the Fifth General Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Bishops. May 13, 2007. Aparecida, Brazil).
- 5) “Each Christian and every community must discern that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth *from our own comfort zone* in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel” (20. Emphasis added. Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*. November 24, 2013. Emphasis added)
- 6) “We are living in an information-driven society which bombards us indiscriminately with data – all treated as being of equal importance – and which leads to remarkable superficiality in the area of moral discernment. In response, we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values” (E.G., 64).
 - a) Among many different voices, how do we make the gospel relevant?
 - b) Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunnick, “Many Voices: Who Should We Listen To?” January 22, 2021. <https://renewaloffaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Morality-Many-Voices-Who-Should-We-Listen-to.pdf>
- 7) Trying to keep the peace – we have been silent too long. Too much silence is how the world came to be the way it is.