

“In the long run, is there any other way of handing on the Gospel than by transmitting to another person one's personal experience of faith?” (Pope St. Paul VI, *Evangelli Nuntiandi*, 46).

One of the most important ways to share our faith is to live it. We must practice what we preach.

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses” (Pope St. Paul VI, *Evangelli Nuntiandi*, 41).

A Final Thought
To bring them home, we must first meet them where they are at.

“Evangelization consists mostly of patience and disregard for the constraints of time” (Pope Francis *Evangeli Gaudium*, 24).



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What is Evangelization?

Jesus says, “*To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent*” (Luke 4:43).



What do you think of when you hear the word “evangelization”?

Do you think of people who knock on your door and want to tell you about their faith?

Do you have images of a person “preaching Jesus” on the street?

These can be forms of evangelization when done well. By well, we mean that we are never to force our faith on others. That would be proselytizing. When we evangelize, we share what our faith means to us out of love for those who listen.



Pope St. Paul VI wrote of our Church’s *duty* to be “the *messenger* of the Good News of Jesus Christ” (2, emphasis added). He later wrote, “the Church too sees before her an immense multitude of people who *need* the Gospel and have a *right* to it” (Pope St. Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, December 8, 1975. 57, emphasis added).



The gospel is meant to be shared. We know this because Jesus himself says,

“Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna” (Mathew 10:26-28).

Where Does One Start?

The first step in evangelization does not require a long and through discourse about all that our faith teaches. The recipient may not be ready for that.

The first step in evangelization is praying for God to guide you.

The second step is share what your faith means to you. Do you have a particular experience to share? How has your faith helped you in hard times?

A good place to begin is to speak of God’s love.

You may start with the fact that God loves them (see John 3:16-17) and that Jesus laid down his life for us as his supreme act of love (see John 15:13).

“Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est.* December 2005.).