

**We Have a Compelling Story to Tell:  
Be Intentional and Joyful Evangelizers**

St. Therese Parish Leaders Gathering  
on the New Evangelization

Sat. March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Fr. Francis Li

# Schedule 10am---3pm

- 10am to 11am---Ice-Breaker and Prayer led by Sharon and Tom
- 11am to 12:15 pm: Presentation and Discussion on the New Evangelization ---We Have a Compelling Story to Tell: Be Intentional and Joyful Evangelizers by Fr. Li
- Lunch to 1pm
- 1pm to 1:30pm --- Review of our Parish Mission Statement, PPC Structure and its Relationship with all Ministries in the Parish Led by Wendy
- 1:30-2:15pm---Small Group Sharing
- 2:15 to 2:45pm---Large Group Resolutions Led by Wendy
- Closing Prayer---to 3pm Led by Tom

# We Have a Compelling Story to Tell: Be Intentional and Joyful Evangelizers

- A brief introduction of the contexts: of the Catholic Church in America and of St. Therese Chinese Catholic Parish
- The New Evangelization: what/why/how from Bible and Papal Exhortations
- Qualities of an effective Evangelizer
- Possible Action Steps at St. Therese

# Two Stories

## 1. Viners

- Creative Founders & Enthusiastic Fans
- What can we learn from this story as evangelizers?

## 2. The Power of Prayer: Mark 9:14-29

“This kind (mute spirit) can only come out through prayer.”

What can we learn from this story as evangelizers?

# Reality Check---

## Catholic Church in America

- There are about [75 million Catholics in the United States](#), making up 7% of all Catholics in the world. The U.S. has the world's fourth largest Catholic population numerically, behind Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines.
- 20 and 30 percent of Catholics attend the liturgy on a regular basis.
- 27% of Americans do not expect to have a religious funeral.
- The second largest “religious” denomination is ex-Catholics.
- Shortage of priests and religious

# American Catholic Church Responses

## Landings

- Catholics Come Home
- Welcome Immigrants
- Welcome Foreign Priests

# Reality Check---

## St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church

- **Chicago, IL** (total population: 2,695,598) is ranked **#41** with the Chinese Population Percentage of 1.6% among major U. S. cities.
  - Based on US Census 2010 data
- \* **Chinatown** is home to approximately 70,000 residents and the population of the neighborhood continues to grow.
- \* **St. Therese** has 225 registered families.
- \* Sunday Mass Attendance is about 200 to 300.

# St. Therese Parish Responses

- Formation
- Outreach
- Landings
  - RCIA
- Now “Operation Evangelization”



# Exercise 1: Core Purpose

## The Five “Why”s

- What work do you do for St. Therese? Or What do you do for evangelization?
- Examples: I am a lector or I am a member of the Garden Club....
- 1. Why is that important?
- 2. Why is that important?
- 3. Why is that important?
- 4. Why is that important?
- 5. Why is that important?

# The New Evangelization

- Evangelization is the activity whereby the Church proclaims the Gospel, so that the faith may be aroused, may unfold, and may grow.”
  - 1973 World Synod of Bishops
- Evangelization is about helping others to encounter Christ. (Cardinal George)
- Evangelization is about deepening one’s faith, having confidence in faith, and sharing the faith.
- Indirect vs. Direct Evangelization

# What's New about It?

- New in Ardor
- New in Method
- New in Expression

“It is the courage to forge new paths in responding to the changing circumstances and conditions facing the Church in her call to proclaim and live the Gospel today.”

--- Benedict XVI

# What's New about It? 2

- “How I long to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelization full of fervour, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction.”

- Pope Francis

- “Without fear we must set sail on the digital sea, facing into the deep with the same passion that has governed the ship of the church for two thousand years...we want to qualify ourselves by living in the digital world with a believer's heart, helping to give a soul to the internet's incessant flow of communication.”

- Pope Benedict XVI

# Why Should We even Bother about Evangelization?

- “Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations.”  
(Matthew 28:29)
- “If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!”
  - (1 Corinthians 9:16)

# Why Should We even Bother about Evangelization? 2

- **Vat. II** Constitution on the *Church in the Modern World* calls all the baptized to work to extend the Church through every human land and in every human heart.
- **Pope Paul VI** *On Evangelization In The Modern World*
- **Pope John Paul II's** Encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*
- **Pope Benedict XVI**---- SYNOD OF BISHOPS ***THE NEW EVANGELIZATION FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH***

# Why Should We even Bother about Evangelization? 3

- **Pope Francis:** *The Joy of the Gospel*
- *Inside concerns vs outside concerns*
- "I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security," he wrote. "I do not want a church concerned with being at the center and then ends up by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures."
- He added: "More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us, 'Give them something to eat.'"

# Why Should We even Bother about Evangelization? 4

- Jesus Christ and His Message---The Kingdom of God
  - Jesus-birth, life, death, and resurrection
    - The best story we have!
      - Taught
      - Celebrated
        - Lived



# Exercise 2



# TOP TEN LIST---

## Qualities of Effective Evangelizers

1. Love Jesus/Beloved of Jesus
2. Love the Word of God
3. Know Our Tradition
4. Love the Poor
5. Know the Culture
6. Have a Missionary Heart
7. Love Praying
8. Know and Love the New Media (Digital Continent—Pope Benedict XVI)
9. Develop a Spiritual Taste for Being Close to People's Lives (Pope Francis)
10. Be Peacemakers

# Possible Action Steps

- Promote regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Provide Educational Opportunities on the subject of “The Kingdom and the New Evangelization.”
- Challenge parishioners to make a habit of serving the poor in the parish and surrounding area
- Identify ways to help new immigrants and to reach out to university students
- Familiarize and use social media for evangelization
- Foster a deep love for Scripture
- Build systematic catechesism in our parish
- Help teens and YA find their vocation and support them in dealing with their secular environment where they live, study, and work.
- Consider inviting more people to join our RCIA programs

# Sharing the Joy of Being Catholics

- How do we build a culture of evangelization at St. Therese?

\*\*\*Each ministry is invited to intentionally do one or two things to foster and practice the New Evangelization this year. (SMART plan)

# Sharing the Joy of Being Catholics 2

- The task of Evangelization
  - A dangerous poison vs. a joyful response to the love of God
- Be missionary disciples
- Be “permanently in the state of mission.”
- “when we flee, hide, refuse to share, stop giving and lock ourselves up in our own comforts. Such a life is nothing less than slow suicide.”

“An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral.”

"We who have the joy of knowing that we are not orphans, that we have a father," cannot be indifferent to those yearning for love and for hope, he said. "With your witness, with your smile," you need to let others know that the same Father loves them, too.

Go and Bear Good Fruit!



# We are Called!

- 1. Come! live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God!

Refrain: We are called to act with justice.

We are called to love tenderly.

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

- 2. Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless,  
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

- 3. Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers  
united in love!