

CATECHESIS, EVANGELIZATION, FAITH INTO ACTION

An Introduction to the Devout Life for Catholic Christians in a New Apostolic Age

The three attached documents outline a pastoral approach to personal and parish community renewal based on “Catechesis, Evangelization, and Faith into Action.” These visionary focal points are interwoven throughout these documents. Together, they offer an evolving process of forming and equipping Intentional Disciples through the Kerygma, the proclamation of our faith.

Document 1: Covenant of Faith

“Beginning with the end in mind,” this document would most likely be fully appreciated by graduates of the ChristLife course. With proper introductory preparation, it could be shared with prospective candidates for the ChristLife course, prospective converts to the Catholic faith, and fully-engaged active parishioners. It may be too much for prospective parishioners.

Document 2: Catechism of the Heart

The Catechism of the Heart provides a basic vocabulary and essential standards for establishing a working-knowledge of Catholic Christianity. Without these foundational teachings, effective instruction and communication of Catholic doctrine, morals, and spirituality is compromised. These prayers and teachings delineate the first steps of a lifelong journey of ongoing formation.

Document 3: Spiritual Plan of Life

Because faith without works is dead, there must be both follow-up and follow-through with all our parish and personal evangelization and catechetical endeavors. A Plan of Life serves as an agenda, a benchmark, and a strategy for moving forward in the spiritual life. However, such a plan of life needs to be developed not at the end of this process, but from the very beginning.



THE KERYGMATIC MOVEMENT FOR CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS TODAY

Consider this your invitation to get on the right side of salvation history! The Kerygma will enable you to do just that. So, what is the Kerygma? The Kerygma, in one sense, is the core message of Christianity. It is the foundational narrative which presents our case for Christianity. But, on a much deeper level, the Kerygma is our personal relationship with Christ as our Savior, and our bold proclamation of that meaningful spiritual experience in both word and in deed.

Catechesis: Embrace the Kerygma! Learn the basic message of salvation! Explain the “who” and the “why” before the “what” and the “how” of faith. Too many Catholics have only a superficial understanding of their faith. They cannot share their faith with others because they cannot adequately explain it among themselves. If this does not change, there will no longer be a church. And, if there is no longer a church, both the message and the way to salvation will be lost, and many poor souls will be lost as well. We have to know our faith, love our faith, and live our faith, before we can effectively share our faith with others!

Evangelization: Share the Kerygma! We have entered a new Apostolic age. We are no longer in the era of Christendom. Cultural Catholicism is no longer effective. Business as usual is over, and it is not going to come back anytime soon. It is time for Intentional Disciples to step up to the plate. We must become committed, confident, and informed disciples; for only disciples can make disciples, and making disciples is what we are all about. We have a two-fold vocation: the universal call to holiness, and the universal call to mission. What we have discovered, and what we now follow, we must effectively share with others!

Faith into Action: Live the Kerygma! Become the difference that Christ wants to make in this world! The world is hurting more than ever before. Without God there is no hope, and this is becoming more evident every day. It is as if Jesus is saying to us: “Miss me yet?” But people don’t know how to turn to the Lord or even why God matters, unless they can see the difference that Jesus makes in our own lives of faith. When people see it in us, they will be enabled to believe it for themselves. Let us become credible witnesses of Christ by becoming, in Jesus, the answer to everything that makes life so difficult, and faith in Christ most appealing!

