

Volunteer Formation Series SAINT ANTHONY



July 20	E VANGELIZATION	&	THE	Hol	Y
Spirit					

Overview

- 1. Embrace the Call
- 2. Foster the Spirituality
- 3. Live the Activity

Embrace the Call

- a. Missionary = one who is responsible for the work of Evangelization
 - We often emulate the idea of being on mission but dissociate ourselves from the reality
- b. But there is a Universal Call to Missions
 - i. Through baptism (CCC 1213; 1268; & 1270)
 - 1. We are baptized into His life, death, resurrection AND mission
 - 2. "Reborn as sons of God, [the baptized] must profess before men the faith they have received from God through the Church" and participate in the apostol and missionary activity of the People of God.
 - 3. "no baptized person can escape the sacred duty of proclaiming Christ to all peoples." (Mission of the Redeemer, 1)
 - 4. "In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the *People of God have become missionary disciples* (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that *love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent* that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciple and "missionaries", but rather that we are always

 "missionary disciples". If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: "We have found the Messiah!" (EG, 120) ii. "Missionary Disciples" 1. Mutually necessary terms – one implies the other 2. Great Commission: be disciples who make 	NOTES
disciples	
 c. Kingdom of God & Witness Acts 1: 6-7: witness establishes the Kingdom of God "Without witnesses there can be no witness, just as without missionaries there can be no missionary activity. Jesus chooses and sends people forth to be his witnesses and apostles, so that they may share in his mission and continue in his saving work: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8) What was done at the beginning of Christianity to further its universal mission remains valid and urgent today. The Church is missionary by her very nature, for Christ's mandate is not something contingent or external, but reaches the very heart of the Church." (MR, 61) 1. The Church is missionary by her nature; in the same way, each disciple is missionary by nature 2. It participates in the same mission of the first disciples and is urgent today 3. Witness is a lifestyle & proclamation that gives testimony to Jesus Christ and the Church as His Kingdom 	
 a. This can be a daunting task because we can, as said, dissociate ourselves, feeling too ill-prepared, not bold enough, unsure of how etc. i. Joy of the Gospel 121 ii. Table: Characterizations of the Early Church b. So then why us? And how? i. "The Holy Spirit is the principle agent of 	
 evangelization" (JP II) ii. "being led by the Spirit" (John Paul II): 1. Evangelist is marked by a "Lifestyle of complete docility to the Holy Spirit" which: 2. Gives us the gifts of fortitude and discernment to transform = 3. Pentecost transformed them into bold witnesses iii. Who is the Holy Spirit: 1. Old Testament Images 	

2. 3 New testament "experiences"3. Pentecost as a lived reality	NOTES
Live the Activity: a. Active lay faithful (animated by the Holy Spirit) is absolutely necessary for the mission of the Church i. Vatican II: As sharers in the role of Christ as priest, prophet, and king, the laity have their work cut out for them in the life and activity of the Church. Their activity is so necessary within the Church communities that without it the apostolate of the pastors is often unable to achieve its full effectiveness. (Apostolicam Actuositatem 10) ii. Question: Have you ever thought, "The Church should do"? iii. Solution: "I am the Church, I will do"	
 b. Secular character of the Lay Faithful Cardinal Arinze: The laity are "those who by Baptism are incorporated into Christ and are sent to witness to Christ in the secular sphere" Mt. 5: 13-14: salt & light LUMEN GENTIUM 31: [The laity] live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as leaven. Leaven - a little has a huge effect 	
 c. Secular spheres i. Family John Paul II: As goes the family, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live. ii. Work Genesis 1 – "the first gospel of work" For it shows what the dignity of work consists of: it teaches that man ought to imitate God, his Creator, in working, because man alone has the unique characteristic of likeness to God. Man ought to imitate God both in working and also in resting, since God himself wished to present his own creative activity under the form of work and rest. (Laborem Exercens, 25) Also, how to not work: Sunday as the day of rest and family Wider Culture: Politics, Economics, Arts, etc. 	
Challenge: Bring to prayer this week how the Lord is calling you to be the Church: in ministry, in your family, in the world; then follow through!	

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CHAPTER VIII MISSIONARY SPIRITUALITY

87. Missionary activity demands a specific spirituality, which applies in particular to all those whom God has called to be missionaries.

Being Led by the Spirit

This spirituality is expressed first of all by a life of complete docility to the Spirit. It commits us to being molded from within by the Spirit, so that we may become ever more like Christ. It is not possible to bear witness to Christ without reflecting his image, which is made alive in us by grace and the power of the Spirit. This docility then commits us to receive the gifts of fortitude and discernment, which are essential elements of missionary spirituality.

An example of this is found with the apostles during the Master's public life. Despite their love for him and their generous response to his call, they proved to be incapable of understanding his words and reluctant to follow him along the path of suffering and humiliation. The Spirit transformed them into courageous witnesses to Christ and enlightened heralds of his word. It was the Spirit himself who guided them along the difficult and new paths of mission.

Today, as in the past, that mission is difficult and complex, and demands the courage and light of the Spirit. We often experience the dramatic situation of the first Christian community which witnessed unbelieving and hostile forces "gathered together against the Lord and his Anointed" (Acts 4:26). Now, as then, we must pray that God will grant us boldness in preaching the Gospel; we must ponder the mysterious ways of the Spirit and allow ourselves to be led by him into all the truth (cf. Jn 16:13).

CHARACTERIZATIONS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Bishops	Eleven		
Priests	Same number		
Deacons	None		
Trained Theologians	None		
Religious Orders	None		
Seminarians	None		
Seminaries	None		
Christian Believers	A few hundred		
Countries with Christians in them	One		
Church Buildings	None		
Schools and Universities	None		
Written Gospels	None		
Money	Very little		
Experience in Foreign Missions	None		
Influential Contacts in High Places	Next to none		
Societal Attitude Toward the Church	Ignorant to hostile		