

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES OF GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

GOAL 1: TO BRING ABOUT IN ALL CATHOLICS SUCH AN ENTHUSIASM FOR THEIR FAITH THAT, IN LIVING THEIR FAITH IN JESUS, THEY FREELY SHARE IT WITH OTHERS

Objective 1: *To foster an experience of conversion and renewal in the heart of every believer, leading to a more active living of Catholic life.*

Possible strategies:

- Retreats
- Parish renewals
- RENEW
- Cursillo
- Charismatic prayer groups
- Youth encounter weekends
- Marriage Encounter
- Other programs of renewal and conversion

Objective 2: *To foster an experience of conversion and renewal in every parish.*

Possible strategies:

- Expanded implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
- Wider invitation for Catholics to serve as RCIA sponsors
- Parish involvement in ministries of reconciliation

Objective 3: *To foster an appreciation of God's word in the lives of all Catholics.*

Possible strategies:

- More frequent individual reading of the Bible among Catholics
- Further development of scriptural-study and scriptural-sharing programs
- Opportunities for more thorough scriptural studies on the part of all Catholics

Objective 4: *To make the evangelizing dimension of Sunday Eucharist more explicit.*

Possible strategies:

- Greeting and welcoming of people
- Creation of a greater sense of prayer during Mass
- More clear calling to worshipers to conversion and renewal; fostering a sense of community among parish members; outreach to visitors and newcomers at Sunday Mass
- Accessibility to worship for everyone

- Development of ways to incorporation new and mobile parishioners through ritual and public acknowledgment

Objective 5: *To foster an appreciation of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and of all the sacraments, the sacred signs of our Catholic life.*

Possible strategies:

- Spirit-filled celebrations of the liturgy;
- sacramental preparation programs;
- encouragement of Eucharistic devotions and adoration;
- careful liturgical planning and ceremonial practice; and
- centering of renewal themes and activities on the sacraments.

Objective 6: *To foster a greater appreciation of the power of God's Word in our worship.*

Possible strategies:

- Ongoing homiletic training for clergy and those called to preach;
- prayerful preparation of the homily;
- shared preparation of the Sunday homily;
- enhanced preparation of lectors; and
- cultivation of reverence toward the liturgical books that contain the Sacred Scriptures.

Objective 7: *To foster an even deeper sense of prayer among our Catholic people.*

Possible strategies:

- Daily schedule of prayer for every Catholic;
- wider utilization of the Liturgy of the Hours and other common prayer among Catholics;
- prayer groups;
- retreat experiences;
- training in methods of meditation and contemplation; and
- publication of more accessible devotional reading.

Objective 8: *To foster a renewed understanding of the faith among Catholics.*

Possible strategies:

- New methods of adult education that utilize various modern media and relate to Catholics' involvement in parish worship and service;
- formulation of catechetical materials in clear, easy-to-grasp language;
- revision of existing catechetical materials to facilitate evangelization and to adapt the Catechism of the Catholic Church to the circumstances of the United States;

- development of home and family-based catechetical techniques; and
- involvement of directors of religious education in the evangelization planning of the parish and of evangelization teams in catechetical planning.

Objective 9: *To foster a sense of discipleship among Catholic adults and children.*

Possible strategies:

- Development of parochial and religious education curricula on the themes of discipleship with concentration on evangelization;
- training for discipleship;
- prayer events in parishes and larger Catholic organizations; and
- wider involvement in ministry and service as part of the stewardship of gifts that God gives the Church.

Objective 10: *To foster active and personal religious experience through participation in small-group and other communal experiences in which the Good News is shared, experienced, and applied to daily life.*

Possible strategies:

- Development of prayer groups;
- parish cultivation of smaller groupings for prayer, spiritual growth, and apostolic efforts;
- prayer associations within parishes and large Catholic organizations; and
- retreat experiences.

Objective 11: *To foster a sense of the domestic church within households in which families, individuals, and groups reside.*

Possible strategies:

- Cultivation of daily prayer and times of prayer in the home;
- establishment of times of family sharing;
- home-based rituals shaped by the liturgical year;
- formation of groups of parents, families, and households to develop spirituality in the home; and
- adaptation of new and meaningful faith practices within the family in view of the decline of family prayer.

Objective 12: *To promote and develop a spirituality for the workplace.*

Possible strategies:

- Encouragement of reflection on the transforming presence of God in the workplace;
- acknowledgment of workers as agents of God's presence in the workplace; and

- encouragement of the formation of Catholic and other Christian groups and organizations that foster values in the workplace.

Objective 13: *To foster greater appreciation of cultural and ethnic spirituality.*

Possible strategies:

- Celebration of the spiritual diversity of the different cultures that make up the Church in the United States;
- acknowledgment of and respect for various forms of personal piety;
- celebration of cultural traditions; and
- encouragement of a variety of musical and cultural expressions.

GOAL 2: TO INVITE ALL PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, WHATEVER THEIR SOCIAL OR CULTURAL BACKGROUND, TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST SO THEY MAY COME TO JOIN US IN THE FULLNESS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

Objective 1: *To make every Catholic institution, especially our parishes, more welcoming.*

Possible strategies:

- Review of the hospitality of our institutions;
- use of parochial schools and religious education programs for outreach and welcome for the whole family;
- workshops on greeting and welcoming;
- retraining of ushers, receptionists, and other personnel; and
- study of the access and availability of our institutions to people (e.g., considering event times, lighting, and signs and posters), particularly with regard to ways to welcome those with disabilities (e.g., having ramps into churches, adequate sound systems, and signing for the hearing impaired).

Objective 2: *To help every Catholic feel comfortable about sharing his or her faith and inviting people to discover Christ in our Catholic family of believers.*

Possible strategies:

- Faith-sharing groups;
- training on discerning religious experience and articulating it;
- development of a greater ability to listen and empathize; and
- encouragement of converts to share their stories of faith.

Objective 3: *To develop within families and households the capacity to share the Gospel.*

Possible strategies:

- Programs to support parents as the primary sharers of faith with their children;
- family outreach to other families to experience the Good News of Jesus;
- training programs for families, individually or in support groups, on more effective methods of sharing the Gospel; and
- fostering of regular family prayer and share time.

Objective 4: *To equip and empower our active Catholic members to exercise their baptismal call to evangelize.*

Possible strategies:

- Renewal days;
- witness training;
- training of Catholics for one-to-one evangelization;
- use of baptismal and sacramental preparation to expand understandings of discipleship;
- modeling and witness from those involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults;
- evangelization components in religious education materials;
- parish missions; and
- preparation of specially designated people as full-time evangelizers.

Objective 5: *To use special times in parish and family life to invite people to faith.*

Possible strategies:

- Invitation to young families to share about forming their young children in faith;
- special ministry to young adults in parishes and college campuses;
- emphasis on the evangelizing dimension of youth ministry for middle school and high school students; and
- involvement of youth and families in ministries of faith and service to others.

Objective 6: *To cultivate an active core of the baptized to serve as ministers of evangelization in their parishes, dioceses, neighborhoods, workplaces, and homes.*

Possible strategies:

- Formation of diocesan evangelization committees and offices;
- formation of evangelization teams in parishes;
- formation and support of national and regional schools of evangelization; and
- workshops and support groups for those involved in evangelization in a more explicit way.

Objective 7: *To effectively invite people to our Church.*

Possible strategies on the national level:

- Careful input into the images that are projected about the Church through the media;
- recruitment of Catholics skilled in media to assist in this new imaging;
- care for the evangelizing dimension of every official church pronouncement; and
- development of national media campaigns that describe the Catholic Church.

Objective 7: *To effectively invite people to our Church (continued)*

Possible strategies on the local level:

- Mailings, home visits, and consistent invitation to people newly moving into parish areas;
- neighborhood publicity through newspapers and posters;
- periodic taking of a census;
- involvement in and service to the neighborhood;
- development of neighborhood, parish, and local events to which people would be specially invited (e.g., open houses, open forums for airing questions and issues, events for friends or extended families, or other programs of welcoming); and
- greater sensitivity to the needs of the seeker.

Objective 8: *To design programs of outreach for those who have ceased being active in the Church.*

Possible strategies:

- Development of programs to help people experience reconciliation;
- renewed celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
- programs for the divorced and separated and for those who feel alienated from the Church;
- professional surveys of inactive Catholics;
- development of ministries that emphasize the mercy and compassion of God; and
- parish missions.

Objective 9: *To design programs that reach out in particular ways to those who do not participate in a church community or who seek the fullness of faith.*

Possible strategies:

- Formation of innovative methods of inquiry in the period before the catechumenate;
- programs of hospitality and welcome, at the local church or in homes;
- exploration of new forms of Catholic presence in cities, suburban malls, storefronts, and other places of congregation;
- personal visits; and

- regional mailings.

Objective 10: *To foster cultural diversity within the unity of the Church.*

Possible strategies:

- Serious review of diocesan policies about parish organization, leadership, and empowerment to ensure that newcomers to our land have a place in the Church;
- training of clergy and ministers in needed foreign languages;
- programs to advance greater understanding of cultural diversity;
- efforts to help newcomers to our land to develop their own social and church structures (while ensuring the unity of the Church); and
- joint celebrations of the many cultures represented in our parishes, especially on great feast days, to reflect the Catholic scope of our lives.

Objective 11: *To deepen ecumenical involvement.*

Possible strategies:

- Careful collaboration with local and state ecumenical agencies;
- joint study of Roman Catholic and other Christian dialogues touching on evangelization, mission, and proselytism;
- study of Roman Catholic understandings of and approaches to Judaism;
- development of sensitivities to interreligious relationship and Roman Catholic teaching on dialogue and proclamation;
- mutual dialogue and sharing;
- joint scriptural study and social justice projects;
- shared discussion groups and socials; and
- joint services of prayer and devotion, where appropriate.

GOAL 3: TO FOSTER GOSPEL VALUES IN OUR SOCIETY, PROMOTING THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY, AND THE COMMON GOOD OF OUR SOCIETY, SO THAT OUR NATION MAY CONTINUE TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE SAVING POWER OF JESUS CHRIST.

Objective 1: *To involve parishes and local service groups in the needs of their neighborhood.*

Possible strategies:

- Raising of awareness of Catholics of the needs of the poor and marginal;
- prioritization of works of justice and love in our parishes and other agencies;
- organization of the service of almost every Catholic in these works;
- engagement in ecumenical agencies committed to the common good;
- expansion of works of charity and help for the needy; and

- setting of specific targets for parish or diocesan involvement in works of service to meet immediate human needs.

Objective 2: *To foster the importance of the family.*

Possible strategies:

- Marriage preparation and support for young married couples;
- family retreats and other religious experiences;
- spiritual, personal, social, and financial counseling for families;
- couple-to-couple faith sharing;
- support groups and networking for families; and
- influencing of social policy to strengthen family life.

Objective 3: *To develop groups to explore issues of the workplace and lay spirituality.*

Possible strategies:

- Workshops on evangelization in the workplace;
- support groups for professionals;
- retreats on the value of work and the ethical/justice issues associated with employment; and
- renewal days organized by and for lay people.

Objective 4: *To encourage Catholic witness in the arts and in the American intellectual community.*

Possible strategies:

- Development of the arts as a way to proclaim the Gospel;
- formation of faith support groups for artists;
- promotion of gospel values in Catholic institutions of higher learning; and
- support of campus ministries in their Christian witness to institutions of higher learning.

Objective 5: *To involve every Catholic, on different levels, in areas of public policy.*

Possible strategies:

- Parish education programs with a social justice component;
- study and education about political choices that Catholics make;
- voter registration drives;
- support groups for professional Catholics and other Christians, particularly in areas of law, economics, and social services; and
- encouragement of lay people to run for and hold public office.

Objective 6: *To involve the Catholic Church, on every level, in the media.*

Possible strategies:

- Development of media plans for evangelization on the national, local, and parochial levels;
- use of audio, video, and videotapes to communicate the Catholic faith to others;
- reflection on Catholics' use of the media in their homes, workplaces, and educational settings;
- formation of task forces of Catholics and other Christians involved in communications in various regions to discuss questions of values in the media and the impact Christian people can have on them;
- involvement of bishops and other religious leaders as public spokespersons of the Church through local print and broadcast media; and
- cultivation of cable television, optical storage, computer, and other technology for communicating the Gospel and Christian values.

Objective 7: *To involve Catholics, at every level, in questions of economic systems.*

Possible strategies:

- Use of professional resources in the parish and diocese to raise questions about economic systems and their consequences concerning the dominant issues of justice, particularly homelessness, social inequities, educational opportunities, housing and employment, and racial equality; and
- formation of ministries to deal with unjust economic systems and practices.