

CENTER FOR THE  
NEW EVANGELIZATION

# New Approaches to Youth Evangelization

*Religious Education, Sacramental Prep,  
and Youth Ministry*



# Goals

- What do we mean by “Youth Evangelization”?
- What are today’s youth looking for?
- “12” Tips to Rebuilding Youth Evangelization in your parish.
- Reaching Youth in a COVID Climate.
- 3 Questions we should be asking.
- Recommended Resources for Further Reading.

“...we have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement or *kerygma*, which needs to be the center of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal. [...]

**‘Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you.’**

This first proclamation is called 'first' not because it exists as the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by more important things.

**It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principle proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways,** the one which we announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment.

[...] We must not think that in catechesis the *kerygma* gives way to a supposedly more 'solid' formation. Nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful and wisdom-filled than that initial proclamation. All Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the *kerygma*... [...] It is the message capable of responding to the desire for the infinite which abides in every human heart."

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 164-165



# **Youth Evangelization**

# Goal of Youth Evangelization...

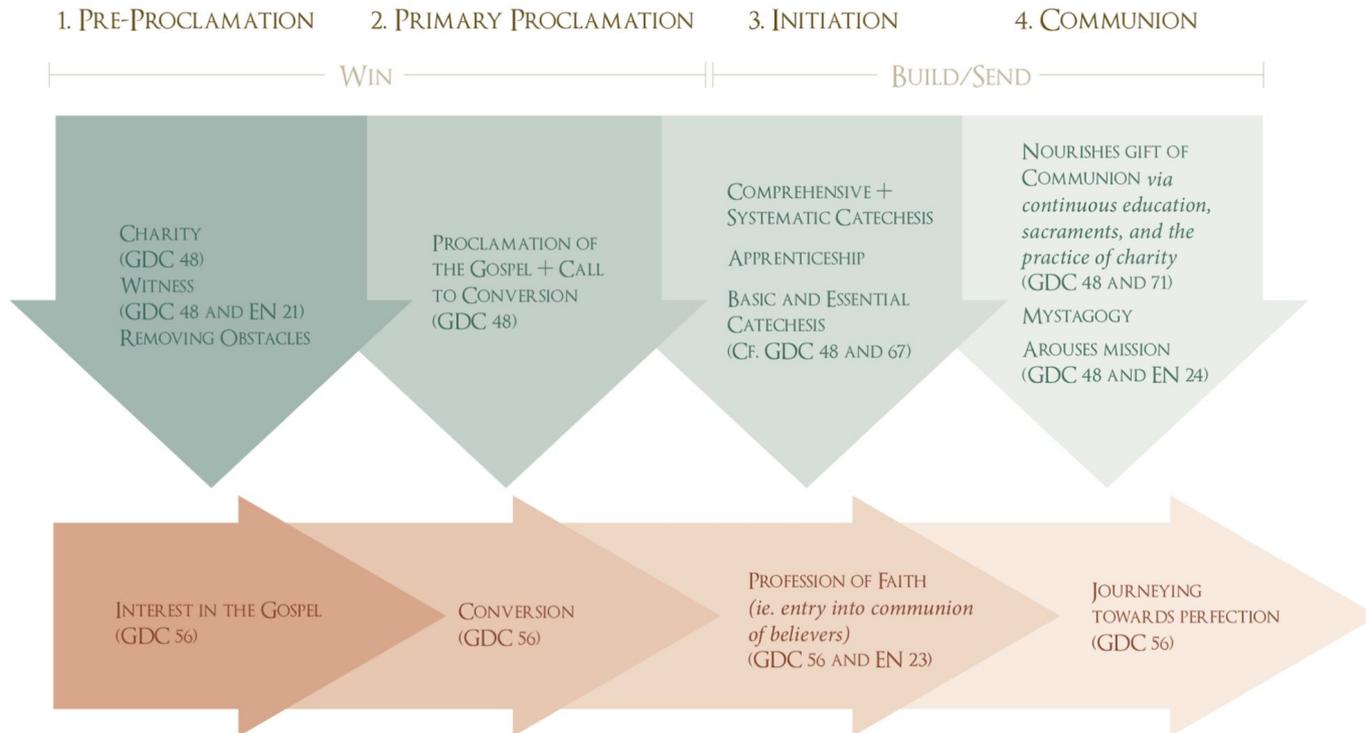
- Is that every youth, from Baptism to 12th Grade, is known, loved, and belongs to a community of disciples that accompanies them through the **Process of Evangelization** where they encounter Christ and become missionary disciples.
  - Pre-Proclamation
  - Primary Proclamation
  - Initiation / **Catechesis**
  - Communion / **Mission (Discipleship)**

# PROCESS OF EVANGELIZATION (GDC 47)

ESSENTIAL "MOMENTS"  
IN A PROCESS OF  
EVANGELIZATION  
(GDC 48)

ACTIVITY ON THE  
PART OF THE  
CHURCH/WITNESS

ACTIVITY ON THE  
PART OF THE  
PERSON DRAWN  
INTO COMMUNION



*Evangelization will never be possible without the action of the Holy Spirit...It must be said that the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelization: it is He who impels each individual to proclaim the Gospel, and it is He who in the depths of consciences causes the word of salvation to be accepted and understood. (EN 75)*



**What are Today's Youth  
Looking For?**

# A Glimpse of Today's Youth

- 39% of 13-25 year olds are non-affiliated
- 83% of young people say they are more likely to take advice from someone who cares about them
- Higher levels of depression, anxiety, suicide
- Social Media plays an incredible role
- Isolation and loneliness
  - 27% young people have one or fewer adults in their life they can turn to if they need to talk
  - 69% have 3 or fewer meaningful interactions in a regular day

# State of Religion & Young People: Relational Authority

- Listening
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Care (Belonging)
- Expertise

Springtide Research - 2020 Study

Watch the [Presentation](#)

Pre-Order the [Book](#)

Additional Recommended Read: "[Belonging](#)"

# In Summary...

- Process of Evangelization
- Earn the right to be heard
- Relational Ministry = discipleship = follow me, while I follow Christ
- Kerygma
- We in the Church must work together for the sake of our young people



**“12” Tips to Rebuilding  
Youth Evangelization  
in Your Parish**

# Lay the Foundation

1. Prayer & Fasting
2. Critically Evaluate What Youth Need
3. Mission & Vision
4. Communication & Engagement



# Build the Frame

5. Prayer & Fasting
6. Build a Team
7. Do One Thing Well & Evaluate
8. Resources & Structure



# Create a Home

9. Prayer & Fasting
10. Hospitality & Environment
11. Relationship & Belonging
12. Testimony, Word & Sacrament

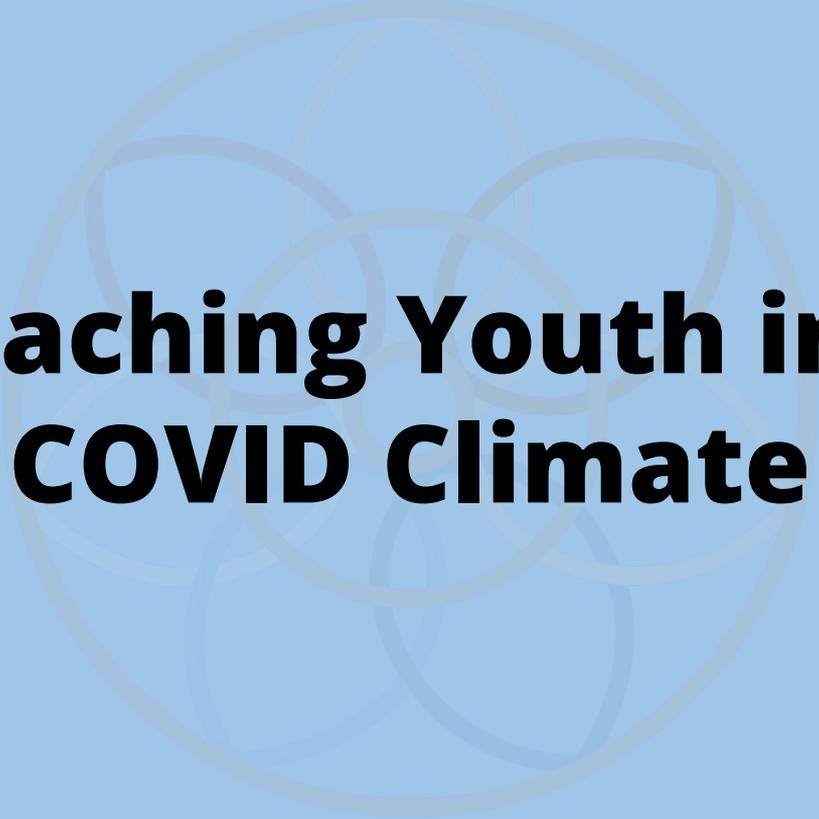


# For Reflection

Where in the “house building”  
process are you?

Where are you succeeding?

Where are you struggling?



# **Reaching Youth in a COVID Climate**

# Communication Engagement

- Specific Dates & Times
- Goal of Quarterly Touch Point: Beginning of Year, Christmas, Easter, and End of Year
- Personal Touch on Birthdays & Baptism Anniversary Dates

# Adult Engagement

- Multiple Points of Contact from the Parish
  - Pastor, DRE, YM, Volunteers, etc.
  - Youth need adults engaged in their lives
- Idea to Celebrate “national holidays”
- Pastor calls or signs cards to parishioners on Baptism Anniversaries

# Reaching Youth Through the Family

- Family Lectio with Sunday Readings
- FORMED -- *Pass It On* Series
- The Chosen TV Series



**3 Questions You Should Be  
Asking for Rebuilding Youth  
Evangelization**

# At your parish...

1. What does Missionary Discipleship look like?
2. How can “Catechesis/Religious Education,” “Sacramental Prep,” and “Youth Ministry” work together in a comprehensive approach for the transformation of a young person?
  - a. Cf. *Directory for Catechesis* 232-256
3. (Honestly ask yourself) Why are young people disengaging from your parish? Of those that are in your sphere of influence, how can you make positive changes?



# **Strategic Thinking**



# **Recommended Resources for Further Reading**

# Resources

- Directory for Catechesis (2020)
- SpringTide Research - “Belonging” & “State of Religion & Young People”
- Fuller Youth Institute - “Growing Young” & “Growing With”
- Christus Vivit (2019)
- “Evangelizing Catechesis: Teaching from Your Encounter with Christ” (2020) - James Pauley

The Next “Back to Mission” is  
Tuesday, Nov 3rd, 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
“Financial Stewardship & Giving”

Registration information will be  
e-mailed out next week.