

## MISSION, EVANGELIZATION, AND GENEROSITY

### **The Church's Mission**

The mission of the Church is to unite every heart on earth with the heart of Christ. But we are the Church. Every Christian family is the Church assembled on the level of the home. Every group of Christian friends is the Church assembled for recreation or celebration. Every business or office where there are Christians is the Church assembled for service to the world. In every place and situation, at home and in the city, at work and at play, our mission is to help each other recognize Jesus, who is "gentle and humble in heart," so that we all may find rest for our souls.

### **The Impact of Evangelization**

If we have really been "saved," that is, if we have been evangelized, if we have truly heard the Good News, then this should be obvious through our enthusiasm and our generosity. If we really are aware of the gift we received at Baptism, we should be generously trying to extend this same gift to others in every way we can...

We should be using actively and consciously all the gifts for ministry that God has given us. And we should use our material resources also to help extend the life of grace to others and to nurture it in those who already believe. The real sign we have been evangelized is that we have become evangelizers.

### **Zaccheus: Evangelization Produces Generosity**

Jesus did not say to Zaccheus the tax collector, "Salvation has entered this house," when he first walked through the door. He didn't say it until Zaccheus had responded to him. In other words, Jesus did not say Zaccheus was "saved" until Zaccheus had caught on and appreciated who Jesus was.

Then Zaccheus responded to Jesus, not only with faith, but with enthusiasm. And he showed it with generosity — declaring that half of everything he owned would be given to the poor... He showed his appreciation in deeds, not words.

— Rev. David Knight