



A tool for the New Evangelization:
A comprehensive evangelization inventory
for parish/cluster leaders

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

based on
*Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy
for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*
by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (1992)

A tool
for the New
Evangelization



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Go and Make Disciples
10th Anniversary
English/Spanish edition
available for order
from the USCCB
(800) 235-8722
or free download:
www.usccb.org/evangelization/goandmake/index.shtml

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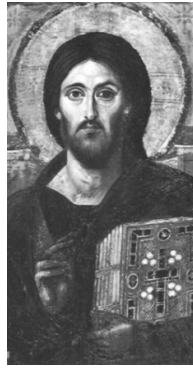


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“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

(Matthew 28: 18-20)

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing.”

(Luke 12: 49)

TOOL defined

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *tōl*; akin to Old English *tawian* to prepare for use.

Date: before 12th century

1: a handheld device that aids in accomplishing a task; 2: something (as an instrument or apparatus) used in performing an operation or necessary in the practice of a vocation or profession - a scholar's books are his tools.

“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.”

(T.S. Eliot – *Little Gidding*)



“Some people will suppose that this is simply an attempt to reconfigure the structure of our diocese in the light of some current challenges (i.e. shifting demographics, uncertain economics, and insufficient number of priests.)

“However, we can also see this the other way around. Perhaps one of the reasons why the Holy Spirit has led us into this time of crisis is to force us back on ourselves, that we might rediscover and reclaim our true identity as Catholic Christians and then boldly proclaim Christ to the world.”

(Bishop Richard Malone – *Telling Anew The Story of Jesus*)

What follows is a tool for the new evangelization based on the U.S. Bishop's 1992 document "Go and Make Disciples." If this sounds familiar, it's no accident – "Go and Make Disciples" is the document that also organizes *Disciples in Mission*, the three-year evangelization series now underway in each parish in our diocese.

"Go and Make disciples" focuses on the spiritual formation of the parish, a formation oriented to evangelization. It revolves around the call to holiness, the call to welcome and invite, and the call to transform the world in Christ.

The call to holiness is the focus of 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." (GAMD 89)

The call to welcome and invite is the focus of Goal II: "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." (GAMD 104)

The call to transform the world in Christ is the focus of Goal III: "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." (GAMD 117)

These goals are not to be a stretch for Catholics. Indeed, "they must bear upon our everyday life, in the family and the workplace, in our neighborhoods and associations, in the way we live. *Catholics will be able to affect people in everyday life long before they are invited to a parish or to a formal religious event.*" (GAMD, 83)

This inventory has been designed to assist you in seeing anew your parish, your cluster, and the people who make up the community there. Every parish in the diocese has undergone and continues to undergo unprecedented change. Look around you – there are new faces in the pews, new families, persons new to this country, people who have come across town or from a town down the road to attend Mass. And, unfortunately, there are people missing, people absent from the feast of our Lord.

We are called then, to renew our faith, to welcome the newcomer and seek out the lost. One of the ways we Catholics do this is through our life in the parish community. "Every element of the parish must respond to the evangelical imperative – priests and religious, lay persons, staff, ministers, organizations, social clubs, parochial schools, and parish religious education programs. **Other wise, evangelization will be something a few people in the parish see as their ministry – rather than the reason for the parish's existence and the objective of every ministry in the parish.**" (GAMD, 85)

The new evangelization calls for renewal in all areas of our parish life – including worship, faith formation, family life, support for global missions, and social justice. Take your time, therefore, in completing this inventory, taking stock of who is present, who is absent, and what you are and are not doing to minister to them. Look back at the history and early mission of your parish community; consider what it is today; contemplate what you wish to become.

Envelop the entire process in prayer. “These goals are meaningless unless they are steeped in prayer. Without prayer, the Good News of Jesus Christ cannot be understood, spread, or accepted...At Mass, in the Liturgy of the Hours, in prayer groups, and in individual prayer and devotions, we must ask unceasingly for the grace to evangelize. **The moment we stop praying for the grace to spread the Good News of Jesus will be the moment when we lose the power to evangelize.**” (GAMD, 81)

Finally, this is not an assignment that must be completed. You DO NOT have to turn it in for credit. You won't be hounded by the parish planning staff. It is, in the end, a tool, one that we pray you find yourself using over and over again in telling anew the story of Jesus.

Peace and all good!



Section I: Who sits at the table? Who does not?

Before you review the goals and some Topics to consider for achieving them, you need to know the demographics of your parish and your region – both historical trends and projections into the future. Why? To assist you in designing your ministries for those who sit at the table today, those who *should* be there, and those who will be there in the future. If, as is happening in much of the diocese, your population is aging, consider what that means for ministry. If your region is seeing an influx in young families, what are you doing to reach out to them?

Useful demographic information and projections on your region and the state can be found at the following:

1. www.census.gov
 2. www.maine.gov/spo/
 3. http://www.maine.gov/portal/facts_history/stats_population
 4. www.maps.google.com (search for “church” near your address)
-

- How many churches (worship sites) in your parish? ____
- How many parishes in your cluster? ____
- What is the distance to the closest church in your parish? ____
- How many churches of other denominations are close (i.e., within a five mile radius) to your parish? ____
- How many households are registered with each church in the parish?
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
- How many individuals are registered with each church in the parish?
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____

[The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate – CARA – collects data using three generations based on life experiences relevant to Catholics. Because CARA produces a wealth of comparative data for parishes across the U.S., we'd suggest sorting your parish data into these same categories. These include **the Pre-Vatican II Generation, the Vatican II Generation, and the Post-Vatican II Generation**. Those Catholics born before 1943 came of age in a period prior to the changes of the Second Vatican Council and tend to exhibit high levels of institutional loyalty, including loyalty to the Catholic Church. Members of the Vatican II Generations were born between 1943 and 1960 and encompass cohorts that came of age during a time of great change in the Catholic Church. These Catholics overlap the generation more widely known as the Baby Boomers and entered adulthood during a time of

great questioning of civic and cultural institutions. The Post-Vatican II Generation, born after 1960, includes the largest numbers of adult Catholics (about half) who have no lived experience of the Catholic Church prior to the Second Vatican Council. Due to its disproportionate size, CARA divides the Post-Vatican II Generation into two segments, one for those older than 30 and one for those between the ages of 18 and 30.]

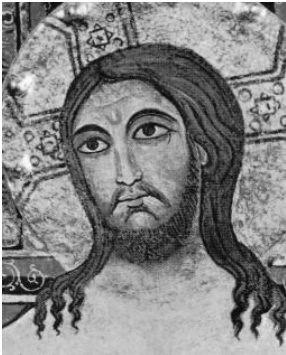
- Estimate the percentage of adult parishioners who:
 - Fall into the following categories
 - Pre-Vatican II Generation (64+) ____
 - Vatican II Generation (47 – 63) ____
 - Post Vatican II Generation
 - 18 – 30 ____
 - 31 – 46 ____
 - Attend Mass at least three times a month
 - Pre-Vatican II Generation (64+) ____
 - Vatican II Generation (47 – 63) ____
 - Post Vatican II Generation
 - 18 – 30 ____
 - 31 – 46 ____
 - Are currently active in a parish ministry
 - Pre-Vatican II Generation (64+) ____
 - Vatican II Generation (47 – 63) ____
 - Post Vatican II Generation
 - 18 – 30 ____
 - 31 – 46 ____
 - Are currently serving on either the pastoral or finance council
 - Pre-Vatican II Generation (64+) ____
 - Vatican II Generation (47 – 63) ____
 - Post Vatican II Generation
 - 18 – 30 ____
 - 31 – 46 ____
- How many children are registered with parish faith formation?
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
- How many young people are actively involved in parish youth ministry?
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
- How many students are registered in the parish/cluster school
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____

- How many baptisms were celebrated in:
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
 - How many weddings were celebrated in:
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
 - How many funerals were performed in:
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
 - How many individuals were confirmed in:
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
 - How many individuals celebrated first communion in:
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
 - How many RCIA participants in:
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
 - How many participants in Initiation for Children in:
 - 2007 ____
 - 2004 ____
 - 2001 ____
 - 1998 ____
-



Section II: The Call to Holiness

Goal I: 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.



“The strategy of this goal is to so deepen the sense of Scripture and sacrament that Catholics will pray more fully and, with a greater understanding of Christ's call, live as disciples at home, at work, and in today's many cultural settings. This goal also seeks a greater openness to physical, mental, and cultural diversity among Catholics.”
(GAMD, 90)

As you go through this, take time to consider your answers. Be as detailed as possible. For example, when you think about retreat opportunities, jot down the actual frequency of retreat opportunities and try to qualify their effectiveness. In other words, you should be asking if the activities you list are truly woven into the fabric of your parish/cluster life. If they are not, what steps can you take to move in that direction?

Does your parish/cluster community (community) actively support and/or live this goal through:

On-going conversion and renewal:

Topics to consider include:

- Widespread support for and participation in a vital and lively RCIA program, including a wide invitation to serve as RCIA sponsors;
- Regular retreats designed for different age and interest groups within the community;
- A variety of prayer experiences offered at times convenient for different age and interest groups within the community;
- Regular marriage enrichment opportunities;
- Regular youth ministry activities;
- Other opportunities for renewal and on-going conversion.

Appreciation of God's Word in our lives and a renewed understanding of faith among Catholics:

Topics to consider include:

- Opportunities for regular scriptural studies – both long and short-term – offered at convenient times;
- New approaches to faith formation at all levels that embrace new forms of media – e.g., the internet, podcasting, and video, as well as traditional forms, e.g., the written word, music, dance, art;
- Formulation of all catechetical materials in clear, easy-to-grasp language that engages both the head and the heart;
- Development of catechetical materials that support Catholics in their homes and with their families;

Appreciation of the true and evangelizing presence of Christ in the Eucharist and of all the sacraments, the sacred signs of God's presence in our lives:

Topics to consider include:

- Greeting and welcoming all who share in your celebration of the Eucharist;
- Creating a prayerful atmosphere before, during, and after Mass;
- Outreach to visitors and newcomers;
- Outreach to those who have fallen away from the regular celebration of the Mass;
- Accessibility to worship for everyone;
- Incorporation of new parishioners through ritual and public acknowledgment;
- Spirit-filled celebrations of the liturgy through careful liturgical planning and ceremonial practice;
- Ongoing homiletic training for clergy and those called to preach;
- Prayerful presentation and reception of the homily;
- Thorough preparation of lectors and cantors;
- A sense of reverence for the liturgical books that contain the Sacred Scriptures.

Fostering the domestic church within all households:

Topics to consider include:

- Raising awareness of types of daily prayer for individuals, families, and groups;
- Encouraging and assisting in establishing times of family sharing and prayer;
- Raising awareness of home-based rituals shaped by the liturgical year;
- Formation of groups of parents, families, and households to develop and enhance spirituality in the home;
- Adaptation of new and meaningful faith practices for individuals, families, and groups as well as reintroducing the ancient practices of our faith.

Promoting and developing a spirituality for the workplace

Topics to consider include:

- Acknowledging workers as agents of God's presence in the workplace;
- Encouraging the formation of Catholic and other Christian groups and organizations that foster values in the workplace;
- Promoting safe workplaces that value the dignity of all workers;
- Promoting just wages for all workers.

Appreciation of cultural and ethnic spirituality

Topics to consider include:

- Celebration of the spiritual diversity of the different cultures that make up the community, the Diocese of Portland, the Church in the United States, and the worldwide Church;
 - Acknowledgment of and respect for various forms of personal piety;
 - Celebration of cultural traditions, including encouraging a variety of musical and cultural expressions.
-

Notes:



Section III: The Call to Welcome and Invite

Goal II: To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social and 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.



“The strategy behind this goal is to create a more welcoming attitude toward others in our parishes so that people feel at home; next, to create an attitude of sharing faith and to develop greater skills to do this; then, to undertake activities to invite others to know the Catholic people better (GAMD, 105)

When we have good news, typically we want to share it. We call our family and friends. We may tell our co-workers and neighbors. We may even be so filled with joy at our news that we tell complete strangers! In a similar way, this goal invites us to spread the message proclaimed by our Catholic Church and what better message can we have to share than the Good News of Jesus?

Once again, take your time and answer with specifics. You are about to invite others to your parish/cluster “home” for a celebration, a feast! Are you truly prepared? Do you send the right messages to your guests? Most importantly, do you truly honor our Lord, Jesus Christ?

Does your parish/cluster community (community) actively support and/or live this goal through:

Making your community more welcoming:

Topics to consider include:

- Using Catholic schools and faith formation programs for outreach and welcome for the whole family;
- Conducting regular workshops on greeting and welcoming;

- (re)training ushers, all ministers, receptionists, secretaries and other staff on greeting and welcoming;
- Conducting a study of the access and availability of all buildings to all people – e.g., considering event times, lighting, signs, and posters and ensuring that you can welcome those with disabilities by providing, e.g., ramps, adequate sound systems, and signing for the hearing impaired;

Helping every Catholic feel confident about sharing his or her faith and inviting people to discover Christ in our Catholic family of believers:

Topics to consider include:

- Offering active and vibrant faith-sharing groups;
- Providing training on discerning and articulating religious experience;
- Providing training on the foundations of our Catholic faith;
- Providing opportunities for converts to Catholicism to share their stories of faith;
- Offering programs that support parents as the primary faith-sharers with their children;
- Providing training for families, individuals, and groups on effective methods of sharing the Gospel;
- Using baptismal and other sacramental preparation to expand understanding of discipleship;

Using all times in community life to invite people to faith:

Topics to consider include:

- Inviting young families to share their experiences of forming their children in faith;
- Providing opportunities for adults to meet in informal settings to discuss issues of faith;
- Providing ministry to young adults in parishes, Catholic schools, and on college campuses;
- Emphasizing the evangelizing dimension of youth ministry and Catholic Schools;

- Involving youth and families in ministries of faith and service to others.

Effectively inviting people to our Church, including those who have ceased being active in our Church:

Topics to consider include:

- Providing mailings, home visits, and consistent invitation to newcomers to the area;
- Providing news of community events through posters, flyers, newspapers, website, and other media;
- Conducting a periodic census;
- Holding regular events, e.g., music, lectures, and readings, to which people in the neighborhood or region would be specifically invited;
- Renewed understanding and celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
- Providing programs that are pertinent to the divorced, separated, and those who feel alienated from the Church;
- Conducting a professional survey of inactive Catholics;
- Developing and supporting ministries that emphasize the mercy and compassion of God;
- Instituting or reinvigorating the “Catholics Can Always Come Home” outreach and ministry;
- Exploring and developing new forms of Catholic presence in cities/towns, shopping malls, storefronts, and other common public meeting places.

Fostering cultural diversity and deepening interfaith involvement:

Topics to consider include:

- Providing opportunities for those who have immigrated to our country to develop their own social and worship practices within the existing community;
- Encouraging joint celebrations of different cultures, especially on great feast days;
- Engaging in mutual dialogue and sharing with other faith communities;

- Providing opportunities for joint scriptural study and social justice projects;
 - Providing regular opportunities for missionaries to tell the story of how our Faith is at work in other parts of the world;
 - Providing regular opportunities for multicultural immersion experiences;
 - Providing opportunities for joint services of prayer and devotion, where appropriate.
-

Notes:



Section IV: The Call to transform the world in Christ

Goal III: To foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.



This goal requires the strategy of strengthening our everyday involvement with those in need, of reflecting on the workplace and media, and of encouraging Catholic involvement in areas of public policy as a way of having greater impact on society's values.

Robert F. Kennedy said "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped," that each time someone "stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

This goal does not require us to be a mighty torrent on our own. Like Kennedy, it reminds us that small acts grounded in our faith in concert with those of others in our community, in our diocese, and in our world, help build the very foundation of human dignity.

Does your parish/cluster community (community) actively support and/or live this goal through:

Awareness of and service to the needs of those in your neighborhood and those in other parts of the world:

Topics to consider include:

- Raising awareness of Catholics of the needs of those who are poor and those who are marginalized, local, national, and global;

- Ensuring that all in the community understand the relationship between justice and charity;
- Ensuring that works of charity and justice are a priority for the community and that every Catholic has an opportunity to participate in these works;
- Participating in interfaith agencies committed to the common good;
- Setting specific targets for involvement in works of service to meet immediate human needs.

Fostering the importance of the family:

Topics to consider include:

- Regular, effective marriage preparation programs that involve the community at-large;
- Regular retreat and other religious experience opportunities for all individuals, including families;
- Regular opportunities for spiritual, personal, financial, and social counseling for all individuals, including families;
- Couple-to-couple faith sharing;
- Support groups and networking for all individuals, including families;
- Regular opportunities to discuss and influence social policy that strengthens family life.

Developing groups to explore issues of the workplace and lay spirituality:

Topics to consider include:

- Conducting workshops on evangelization in the workplace, including fundamentals of our Catholic faith and how to converse with others about it;
- Support groups for all workers;
- Retreats on the value of work and the ethical/justice issues associated with employment;
- Renewal days organized by and for lay people;

Developing ways to encourage Catholic witness in the arts:

Topics to consider include:

- Developing the arts as a way to proclaim the Gospel.

Developing and fostering involvement in public policy:

Topics to consider include:

- Providing opportunities for study and conversation about political choices that Catholics make;
- Conducting voter registration drives;
- Encouraging members of the community to run for and hold public office;
- Encouraging members of the community to study, discuss, and act on living conditions throughout the world in light of Catholic social teaching and gospel values.



Section V: The end of this document and the beginning of your work!

Now that you have compiled your parish/cluster and regional demographic data, you can transform it into useable information by identifying those trends that are shaping your community and opening a dialogue within your parish on ways to respond to them.

This won't happen all at once, of course. And you should not approach this as a task to be completed and filed away. Let it begin a dialogue with all in your parish and cluster. Focus on what you do well; celebrate your successes. Examine where you need to strengthen your efforts. Reach out to those in your parish and cluster who may have the time, treasure, and talent to assist – and not just those who are already active! Discuss who is there in your midst just waiting to be asked – and ask them!

And now that you have begun to take stock of the life of your community, your real work – the ongoing work of evangelization - begins. **Go and Make Disciples** offers the following invitation to all Catholics, we pray you accept it:

One of the earliest stories of Jesus finds him walking along the shore; he sees two people, and then two others, all of them working as fishermen. "Come after me," he says. And, once they followed the Christ, their lives became part of the story of salvation.

We offer the Catholics of the United States the same invitation as Jesus: Come and follow! Come, hear the Lord calling each one of us; come, follow the Teacher who makes us his disciples. Come, be part of the story of salvation.

Our invitation asks every believer to discover ways that he or she can realize this plan in every way appropriate – personally, in the family, in the neighborhood and parish, or as part of a larger organization.

Make the goals of this plan real. Discover how the Spirit is leading you to evangelize. Search out how it can reshape our parishes and our institutions. To do this takes questioning and searching, discovery and decision. But, most of all, it takes faith. Pray that God's Holy Spirit will give Catholics in this nation the kind of faith needed to begin evangelizing seriously.

We invite you: Make this plan your plan.

(GAMD, 128 – 132)

Notes:

