

Office of Evangelization

Mission

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation.” -- Jesus Christ

“The Church exists in order to evangelize. All Christians are called to witness, and in this way can be real evangelizers.” -- Pope Paul VI

“I sense the moment has come to commit all the Church’s energies to a new evangelization... No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.” -- Pope John Paul II

Vision

The Diocese of Peoria must make the crucified and risen Christ the center of her pastoral concern and her evangelizing activity. “Everything planned in the Church must have Christ and his Gospel as its starting-point.” (EA 67)

Therefore, “the Church in Peoria must speak increasingly of Jesus Christ, the human face of God and the divine face of man. It is this proclamation that truly makes an impact on people, awakens and transforms hearts, in a word, converts. Christ must be proclaimed with joy and conviction, but above all by the witness of each one’s life.” (EA 67)

Goals

Imparting a vision for effective and Christ-centered Catholic evangelization in response to the call of Popes Paul VI “*Evangelii Nuntandi*” and John Paul II “*Ecclesia in America*” for a new evangelization, and to the Bishop's “*National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States, Go and Make Disciples.*”

Assisting parishes and other agencies in developing a systematic and comprehensive plan for evangelization and discipleship with which to minister to practicing Catholics, inactive Catholics, and the unchurched, as well as to other believers and non-believers.

The Diocese of Peoria Office for Evangelization will focus on Equipping and Educating Catholics to carry out a New Evangelization in the Third Christian Millennium so that our parishes, schools and families might become Evangelized and Evangelizing Communities of Faith!

Serving as a resource for all diocesan personnel and agencies who wish to maximize the evangelistic potential of all their activities and ministries.

(September 2003)