

Everyday Faith-Sharing Behaviors

Many Catholics realize that evangelization is the essential mission of the Church. Yet, how is it the essential mission of my everyday life? How frequently do I actually engage in concrete evangelizing or faith-sharing activities with people in my home, neighborhood, parish, workplace, or community? What would happen if we used a portion of our regular meetings (10-15 minutes) as committees, organizations, staffs, or ministries for each of us to talk about a recent experience when we attempted to share faith (successes or failures) with an active or inactive Catholic or with someone who is unchurched?

Below is a list of 15 common behaviors that might be opportunities for sharing our faith in Jesus Christ and the Church in daily life. We can use it as a reminder, individually or in small groups, about how we are doing. Some individual reflection or small group sharing questions are listed at the end.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages us, "Each individual Catholic is to look at his or her everyday life from the viewpoint of evangelization. Take note of the many opportunities to support another's faith, to share faith, and to help build up Jesus' kingdom in our homes and workplaces, among our neighbors and friends." (*Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*, Section 136)

How Many Times Did I Try the Activities Listed Below During the Past Week?

- ___ 1. I tried to establish a friendly relationship with someone whom I didn't know at all or didn't know well
- ___ 2. I visited a stranger (home, hospital, neighborhood or other visit).
- ___ 3. I shared what it means to me to be a Catholic with someone.
- ___ 4. I spoke with high regard of the Catholic Church in general, my own parish or my own parish priests/staff.
- ___ 5. I encouraged someone to turn to or draw closer to God.
- ___ 6. I shared my faith in God with someone.
- ___ 7. I told a "faith story," an incident when I felt God had intervened in my life.
- ___ 8. I assured someone of how much God loves them just the way they are.
- ___ 9. I assured someone of God's power.
- ___ 10. I shared what difference Jesus had made in my life.

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- ___ 11. I prayed with someone privately or in a small group (other than family, prayer groups or parishioners at Mass).
- ___ 12. I prayed with someone, specifically inviting Jesus into his/her life in a more personal and powerful way.
- ___ 13. I invited someone to go to Mass.
- ___ 14. I invited someone to go to a parish meeting or activity other than Mass (including meetings in homes.)
- ___ 15. I encouraged someone to be of service to others.
- ___ **Total Number of Evangelizing Behaviors This Past Week**

Individual Reflection or Small Group Sharing Questions:

- 1. What two or three faith-sharing activities do I generally do the most? Why?**

- 2. What two or three faith-sharing activities do I avoid or do the least? Why?**

- 3. How have my faith-sharing activities changed—increased or decreased over the past few years?**

- 4. Where can I go in the Catholic Church to get training in how to share my faith more frequently in everyday life?**

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