

Ongoing Formation

“On the New Evangelization and The New Media”

Group Study Program
(Total time: two hours)

The theme for this session: **The New Evangelization**

You will need:

- A Bible
- Music and/or Hymnal
- Computer to show a 9 min. Youtube clip: “Interview with Bishop Robert Barron on the New Evangelization and the New Media”

The opening invocation

Leader: Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life,
Response: Have mercy on us.
Leader: Mary, Queen of Apostles,
Response: Pray for us.
Leader: St. Paul the Apostle,
Response: Pray for us.

An appropriate hymn is sung or played such as: “Praise to You O Christ Our Savior”
Silent prayer and reflection follow

In Honor of Jesus Truth

The Prayer before Reading Sacred Scripture

Together:

Jesus Christ, Our Master,
You are the Way, the Truth and the Life,
Our one and supreme good.
Send your Holy Spirit to teach us
and remind us of what you have preached.
Enkindle in us the fire of Your Divine love
as you enkindled the hearts of the first apostles.

A reading from the Handbook for Pauline Cooperators:

Our Century is characterized by the *mass media* or means of social communication, and the first proclamation, catechesis or the further deepening of faith cannot do without these means, as we have already emphasized. When they are put at the service of the Gospel, they are capable of increasing almost indefinitely the area in which the Word of God is heard; they enable the Good News to reach millions of people. The Church would feel guilty before the Lord if she did not utilize these powerful means that human skill is daily rendering more perfect. It is through them that she proclaims from the housetops the message of which she is the depository. In them she finds a modern and effective version of the pulpit. Thanks to them she succeeds in speaking to the multitudes.

The witness which the St Paul Cooperator is called to give in the Church is that of one who has understood the need and the urgency - in addition to prayer, suffering, and offering - of *collaborating*, so that the modern instruments of social communication are placed at the service of the truth.

Choose different readers for each Bible passage.

-A reading from the Gospel of Matthew: Mt 13:3-9

-A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians: Eph 4:7-13

St. Pope John Paul II:

from "The Mission of the Redeemer" (n.3):

Peoples everywhere, open the door to Christ! His Gospel in no way detracts from man's freedom, from the respect that is owed to every culture and to whatever is good in each religion. By accepting Christ, you open yourselves to the definitive Word of God, to the One in whom God has made himself fully known and has shown us the path to himself.

The number of those who do now know Christ and do not belong to the Church is constantly on the increase. Indeed, since the end of the Council it has almost doubled. When we consider this immense portion of humanity which is loved by the Father and for whom he send his Son, the urgency of the Church's mission is obvious.

On the other hand, our own times offer the Church new opportunities in this field: we have witnessed the collapse of oppressive ideologies and political systems; the opening of frontiers and the formation of a more united world due to an increase in communications; the affirmation among the peoples of the gospel values which Jesus made incarnate in his own life (peace, justice, brotherhood, concern for the needy); and a kind of soulless economic and technical development which only stimulates the search for the truth about God, about man, and about the meaning of life itself.

God is opening before the Church the horizons of a humanity more fully prepared for the sowing of the Gospel. I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new

evangelization and to the mission *ad gentes*. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.

Suggested Hymn: “Bread for the World”

1. In Honor of Jesus Way

Examination of Life:

1 Cor 13:1-13

Time allotted: 10 minutes

Prayer of Contrition Together:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

2. In Honor of Jesus Life

Group Prayer:

Time Allotted: 20 minutes

Leader: *The leader invites the group to offer spontaneous petitions. After each petition say:*

We pray to the Lord. (Response) Lord Hear our Prayer.

With the time that is remaining, pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary (choose a couple decades if there is a time constraint).

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Mary
5. The Crowning of Mary as Queen of heaven and earth

Conclude the time of prayer together with a song such as: “We are Called”

Closing Invocations

Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life, *Have Mercy on us*

Mary, Queen of the Apostles, *Pray for us*

St. Paul the Apostle, *Pray for us*

From all sin, *deliver us Lord*

The group moves from the area of prayer to the meeting area.

5. Break

Time Allotted: 10 minutes

- 4. Viewing of Bishop Robert Barron's 9 min Youtube clip: "Interview with Bishop Robert Barron on the New Evangelization and the New Media" found on the following link: <https://youtu.be/g4jYnHuonA>**

Starter Discussion Questions after 5 minutes of reflection:

1. Reflect on the 7 Traits of a New Evangelist:
 - 1.) Relationship with Jesus Christ
 - 2.) Be a person of Ardor
 - 3.) Know the story of Israel
 - 4.) Know the Culture
 - 5.) Love the Great Catholic Tradition
 - 6.) Have a Missionary Heart
 - 7.) Know and love the new media

2. In which trait or traits are you strong?

3. Which trait or traits challenge you?

4. What concrete step can you take to strengthen the trait or traits you identified as challenges?

Time Allotted: 40 minutes

- 7. Conclude with any announcements and announce the date, time and location of the next meeting.**

References for further study

Recommended Reading found at Pauline Books and Media

- Pope St. Paul VI's document: On Evangelization in the Modern World
- Pope St. John Paul II's document : The Mission of the Redeemer
- Live Christ! Give Christ! Prayers for the New Evangelization
- Navigating the New Evangelization by Cantalamessa
- Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell
- Catholicism: The New Evangelization DVD Set by Bishop Robert Barron