

THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS

Summer Sermon Series 2015

Week 4: The Essential Mission: The New Evangelization

I. SACRED SCRIPTURE

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. Luke 24:46b-48

³ This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

II. FATHERS OF THE CHURCH

The Apostles received the Gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ was sent forth from God. ²So then Christ is from God, and the Apostles are from Christ. Both therefore came of the will of God in the appointed order. ³Having therefore received a charge, and having been fully assured through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and confirmed in the word of God with full assurance of the Holy Ghost, they went forth with the glad tidings that the kingdom of God should come.

St. (Pope) Clement, *Epistle to the Corinthians*, 42.1-3

III. CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

849 *The missionary mandate.* “Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be ‘the universal sacrament of salvation,’ the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men”: “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 Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

850 *The origin and purpose of mission.*

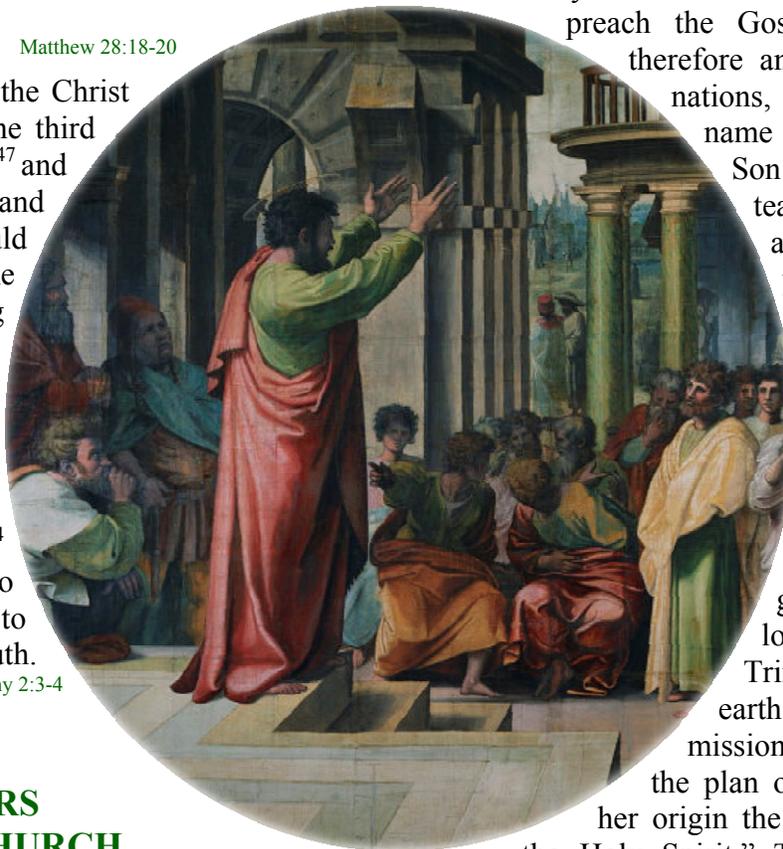
The Lord’s missionary mandate is ultimately grounded in the eternal love of the Most Holy Trinity: “The Church on earth is by her nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, she has as her origin the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit.” The ultimate purpose of mission is none other than to make men share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

851 *Missionary motivation.* It is from God’s love for all men that the Church in every age receives both the obligation and the vigor of her missionary dynamism, “for the love of Christ urges us on.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

905 *Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization,* “that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life.” For lay people,



“this evangelization ... acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

IV. PAPAL TEACHING

We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. **Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize,** that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection.

Blessed (Pope) Paul IV, Evangelii Nuntiandi, § 14.

The commemoration of the five hundred years of evangelization will achieve its full meaning if it becomes a commitment by you the Bishops, together with your priests and people, a commitment not to a re-evangelization but to a new evangelization — new in ardor, methods and expression.

*Saint (Pope) John Paul II,
Address to the Assembly of CELEM
in Port-au-Prince, Haiti - March 9, 1983.*

This concern was all the more prominent, given that I myself had outlined an initial program for a new evangelization on American soil. As the Church throughout America prepared to commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the first evangelization of the continent, when speaking to the Council of Latin American Bishops in Port-au-Prince (Haiti), **I had said: “The commemoration of the five hundred years of evangelization will achieve its full meaning if it becomes a commitment by you**

the Bishops, together with your priests and people, a commitment not to a re-evangelization but to a new evangelization — new in ardor, methods and expression”. Later, I invited the whole Church to respond to this call, although the program of evangelization, embracing today's world in all its diversity, must take different shape in the light of two quite different situations: on the one hand, the situation of countries strongly affected by secularization, and, on the other, the situation of countries where there are still “many vital traditions of piety and popular forms of Christian religiosity”. There is no doubt that in varying degrees both these situations are present in different countries or, better perhaps, in different groups within the various countries of the American continent.

Saint (Pope) John Paul II, Ecclesia in America, § 6.

Dear brothers and sisters, you are among the protagonists of the New Evangelization that the Church has undertaken and carries forth, not without difficulties but with the same enthusiasm as the first Christians. To conclude, I make my own the words of the Apostle Paul that we have heard: I give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in my prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily - October 16, 2011.

The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, § 1.

