



Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

04 February 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Evangelization ˈi-van-jə-lə-ˈzā-shən

The act of preaching or proclaiming the gospel; how the Good News of Christ's coming is delivered to the ends of the earth.

**Evangelizing** begins with the witness of an authentic Christian life. This witness involves humility, detachment from wealth, faith, hope, and charity. In this way one becomes a credible proclaimer of the joy found in Jesus.

*Pronunciation:* <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-evangelization>

### CONTEXT

An **evangelizer** must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*

The person who has been **evangelized** goes on to **evangelize** others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of **evangelization**: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn.

—Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii nuntiandi*

To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer.

—Saint Thomas Aquinas

### WHY IT MATTERS

Jesus is the first **evangelizer** when he proclaims the coming of God's reign. Delivering the Good News of what God has done for us is, in fact, the entire mission of the church.

All people have a right to receive the gospel, and all Christians have a duty to proclaim it. This is not an obligation, says Pope Francis in *Evangelii gaudium*, but a joy as we "point to a horizon of beauty" for all.

### RELATED WORDS

Gospel | *Evangelii gaudium* | Preaching

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What's the difference between catechesis and evangelization?

Catechesis is basically religious education. Rooted in the Greek word for "echo," its intent is to nurture the Christian life through imitation in word and deed. **Evangelization** also has Greek origins and means "proclaiming good news." That good news of God's reign is contained in the gospel. Just as catechesis doesn't mean memorizing rote facts about faith, **evangelization** isn't the same as shouting scripture verses to passersby. We can think of **evangelization** as creating the spark that ignites the fire, and catechesis as the work of tending the flame once it's established. . . . When the two work hand in hand, **evangelization** and catechesis can make us saints by bringing us to faith and then to holiness, inch by inch.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-evangelization>

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (FEBRUARY 4)

### Our everything

The Second Vatican Council said the church is "missionary by its very nature"—in other words, mission, these days also called "**evangelization**," is more than just another thing the church does: It is part of everything the church does. What is mission? It's not only the sending of missionaries to foreign countries. Most simply, **evangelization** is bringing to others the Good News to which Jesus witnessed. It means seeing the face of Christ in everyone, especially the poor and outcast.

READINGS: Job 7:1-4; 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39 (74 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020424.cfm>). "Let us go to preach . . . For this purpose have I come."

### FAITH IN ACTION

We can all be missionaries and **evangelizers** by showing compassion, spreading goodness, transforming, forgiving, loving, serving, preaching, teaching, and healing.