

You've all seen people on street corners yelling out at passers by to be saved from sin. Repent sinners! Accept Jesus and be saved!

And God bless 'em, they're doing what Jesus told them; "Go out and spread the Gospel to all the nations". Anyone think that's a good way to go about it?

¹⁵He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Matthew 16:15:16

²Proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

2 Timothy, 4:2

**¹⁵but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope,
¹⁶but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame.**

2 Peter, 3:15-16

This is evangelization.

How do we evangelize in a way that bears fruit? It's not about trying to scare someone into believing. True Christianity is not about working to avoid hell, it's about working to achieve Heaven.

We achieve Heaven by living our lives the way Christ taught us.

St. Francis is said to have said “Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.” He probably never actually said those words, but the sentiment is so true.

Preach the Gospel with your life, your being, your manner, in how you treat others in all that you do in the presence of others and when you’re alone.

Be the person, always ready to show your joy of Christ to the whole world.

Be the one of whom people say, “She always had a smile for everyone” or “He was always ready to lend a hand to anyone in need.”

Wear your crucifix or your miraculous medals. Wear your retreat t-shirts and be ready to have a discussion with anyone who questions it.

I was wearing my “Go out to the Deep” DYC shirt in Carson City Nevada. I took my Grandson to the Carson City Train Museum. The shirt has a symbol on the front breast with crossed oars behind a diamond shape with “SCDYC, Est. 1990” It looks like it might be the emblem for a yacht club or maybe a seafood restaurant. At the door a guy in a conductor’s uniform punched my ticket and simply asked “What’s SCDYC?”

I told him, “It’s eight hundred Catholic High School teens gathering together to praise Jesus for the weekend.

He said “Catholics do that?”

I said “Sir, Catholics invented it.”

My answer resulted in a thirty minute conversation about Catholic Youth ministries and the Catholic Church in general. You never know when you might have an opportunity to evangelize.

Fall retreat is coming up in just three weeks. When you get back to school that Monday and someone asks what you did over the weekend, tell them all about it with joy and excitement! Then invite them to the next Life Night.

No matter what you're doing, if the opportunity arrives, take it!

How do you get somebody to ask? Well, all of the above. Wearing your medals, crucifix or tee-shirts, your attitude, your smile, your apparent joy in life (Yes you should show that) as your joy in Christ. Helpfulness to others, sticking up for the bullied, being Christlike!

Now here's the thing. In today's society, this is NOT EASY!

You yourself may be bullied or maligned for your religion. Jesus Himself told us there would be division and persecution. He warned us it would not be easy. But to those who persevere and continue in His way, the reward will be great! Just knowing that should help keep us strong and joyful in the faith.

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Amen