DEFINITIONS

WHAT IS EVANGELIZATION?

Evangelization means bringing the good news of Jesus into every situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the power of the Gospel itself.

HOW DO WE EVANGELIZE?

At the core of evangelization is the proclamation of the Gospel message and the individual response of the person. Individuals who have responded to the call to conversion then go on to commit themselves to showing God’s mercy to the world and to contributing to the just ordering of society with Gospel values.

WHAT IS A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE?

This term comes from Pope Francis’ document on Evangelization, “The Joy of the Gospel”. The Archdiocese of St. Louis has defined a Missionary Disciple as one who encounters Christ, grows in their relationship with him and then witnesses him to the world (in word and deed). Put simply, a missionary disciple is a person who evangelizes. We are all called to be missionary disciples!

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT?

While it is hard to boil down to a simple statement, Pope Francis says the core of the Gospel is the Kerygma or “first proclamation”. While there are many formulations of this core message, one simple formula is:

1. Creation: God created us to be in relationship with Him.
2. Sin: Through original sin, we broke that intended relationship with God.
3. Redemption: Jesus Christ came and died for our sins and restored our relationship with God.
4. Conversion: We all must respond in faith to the graces offered to us.
5. Immersion: Living in the grace of the Church and witnessing his love to the world around us.

– Adapted from Chris Stefanick’s Evangelization Course on the Revive Parishes Platform