

The Diocese of Tyler

Evangelization and Mission

Mission Statement

Evangelization is Jesus Christ Himself, the Good News of God.¹ Jesus Christ is the very first and greatest evangelizer to the point of the sacrifice of His earthly life.² Jesus Christ proclaims salvation, which is above all liberation from sin and the Evil One.³ The Church is born of the evangelizing activity of Jesus Christ and the twelve apostles:

Then Jesus approached and said to them: "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28: 18-20)

Perspective of Evangelization

In our lives, through events of Evangelization, God's loving grace enters into human situations, calling forth conversion of individuals and society to Jesus Christ, mediator between God and man. The Holy Spirit is the principle agent of Evangelization. It is He who impels each individual to proclaim the Gospel, and it is He who in the depths of consciences causes the Word of salvation to be accepted and understood.⁴

The Church's universal mission to evangelize is born of faith in Jesus Christ, God made flesh. The Church founded by Jesus Christ brings the Good News into these events of Evangelization and enables individuals and society to cooperate in the work of the Holy Spirit.

Evangelization is an event, a *Kairos*, a moment of grace, in which God manifests salvation in Jesus Christ. Evangelization events call each of us to a deeper encounter with God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We entrust our mission to the loving hands of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Diocese.

Given at Tyler, Texas on this 16th day of December, 2005

Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada del Río, S.J.
Bishop of Tyler

¹ Mark 1:1, Roman 1: 1-3

² "Evangelii Nuntiandi", (On Evangelization in the Modern World, Paul VI), Art. 7, 1975

³ "Evangelii Nuntiandi", (On Evangelization in the Modern World, Paul VI), Art. 9, 1975

⁴ "Ecclesia Africa", (Church of Africa, Apostolic Exhortation, John Paul II), Art. 21, 1995