

Helping Others Discover Abundant Life in Christ

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Presented by: André Lesperance

Author, Senior Content Creator & Ministry Consultant @ The Evangelical Catholic

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

“Evangelization” / “The Apostolate”

- (1) *to evangelize* does not mean simply to teach a doctrine, but to proclaim Jesus Christ by one’s words and actions, that is, **to make oneself an instrument of his presence and action in the world.** ~CDF, Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization, 2
- (2) “The Church was founded for the purpose of spreading the kingdom of Christ throughout the earth for the glory of God the Father, to enable all men to share in His saving redemption, and that through them the whole world might enter into a relationship with Christ. All activity of the Mystical Body directed to the attainment of this goal is called the **apostolate**, which the Church carries on in various ways through all her members. For the Christian vocation by its very nature is also a vocation to the apostolate. No part of the structure of a living body is merely passive but has a share in the functions as well as life of the body...” ~ Vatican II, Decree on Laity, 2
- (3) “The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him.” ~Pope Francis, EG 264

The Laity

- (4) “they are **in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ**; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world.

“What specifically characterizes the laity is their **secular nature**...

...[T]he laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by **engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God**. They live **in the world**, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the **ordinary circumstances** of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may **work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven**...

[T]he laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where **only through them can it become the salt of the earth** (2*). Thus every layman, **in virtue of the very gifts bestowed upon him**, is at the same time a witness and a **living instrument of the mission of the Church itself** ‘according to the measure of Christ’s bestowal.’ “

~ Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, 31-33

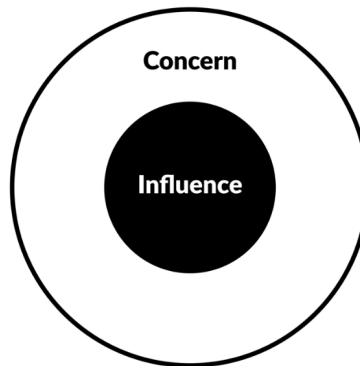
“A Unique Task” (Personal Apostolate)

(5) “Above all, each member of the lay faithful should always be *fully aware of being a “member of the Church”* yet **entrusted with a unique task which cannot be done by another** and which is to be fulfilled for the good of all.” ~ Pope St. John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, 28

Never “Ready”

(6) “For He seems to do nothing of Himself which He can possibly delegate to His creatures. He commands us to do slowly and blunderingly what He could do perfectly and in the twinkling of an eye. He allows us to neglect what He would have us do, or to fail.” ~C.S. Lewis, *The World’s Last Night and Other Essays* (New York: Harcourt, Harvest Books), p 8.

Circles of Influence & Concern



Accompany a Few

The building blocks of relationship: Time, Transparency, Trust

The art of conversation:

Ask questions!	Reverence	Curiosity	Seek first to understand
Inquire about details	Follow up/remember		Active, fully attentive listening
Don't preach	Testimony (“I” statements) over advice (“you should”)		

Meet People Where They Are (and help them take their next step)

DESIRE FOR JESUS

LOW

HIGH



Some ways to accompany →



10 Practices of a Jesus-Led Life

A disciple not only believes Jesus' or the Church's teachings with the mind but also strives to follow Jesus' teachings and example as a way of life. The following ten practices summarize core ways to participate in Jesus' way of life as his disciple or apprentice.



Pray from the Heart

Draw close to God in silence and solitude, praying daily in intimate dialogue from the depths of your heart.



Dwell in God's Word

Soak in the Scriptures—more than reading the words, meditate on them, coming over time to make your home in them, dwelling and abiding in God's Word.



Grow in Freedom

Fight for freedom *from* sin and *for* love by embracing Jesus' offer of healing and growth in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and detachment from sin.



Worship the Lord

Give praise and honor to God, offering him the best of your attention, focus, gratitude, and trust, especially through celebration of the Eucharist.



Love Your Neighbor

Serve others with the compassion of Jesus becoming more loving, self-sacrificing, empathetic, and moved by the suffering and needs of others.



Encourage One Another

Draw strength from a community of disciples who support each other and spur one another onward.



Follow God's Lead

Discern the Holy Spirit's promptings and grow in sensitivity and docility to the Lord's guidance in your life.



Call on Mary and the Saints

Follow the examples of Mary and the saints and lean on their prayers for heavenly help toward a fully transformed life in Jesus.



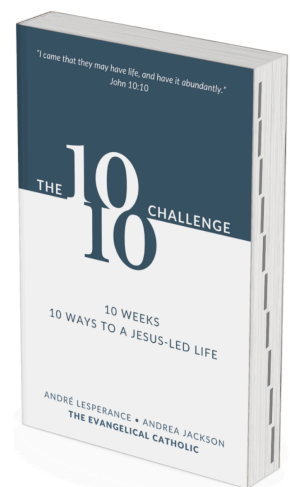
Entrust Your Life to Jesus

Rely on God in every circumstance: big and small, joyful and sorrowful life and death. Every suffering and joy can be received as training in trust.



Share the Good News

Witness to the saving power of God in your actions and words. "Freely you have received," Jesus says. "Freely you are to give." "Go and make disciples."



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