

# Crowds to Three

Prayer-Care-Share Relationships  
as Christ-Modeled Evangelization



*Enflame Our*  
**HEARTS**  
**HOMES**  
**COMMUNITIES**

**Personal Evangelization Plan:  
Living the Great Commandment  
Fulfilling the Great Commission**

# The Great Commandment

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.’”

Matthew 22:36-40

# The Great Commission

“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 28:19-20

# Understanding Crowds to Three

## Baptized Into Mission

Your presence in each moment is critical to your life as an active Christian. Each moment is an opportunity to witness appreciation, joy and gratitude. Each moment our children, spouse, friends and neighbors are observing how we respond to our life situations. These moments are an opportunity of divine appointment for each of us. Divine appointments are an occasion of sacred encounter with Christ through another person. Much of our time is spent in planning for the next thing or reviewing the last thing -- we are often not mindful of the present moment. We are missing pivotal opportunities for sacred encounter. Divine appointments can be life changing; our decision to recognize or ignore these moments can have lasting effects. God creates these appointments for us to participate in His loving plan to draw others to Him and His Church.

*The mission of the Church is to share the Gospel.* This message of hope, joy and ultimate love is an invitation to know Jesus through His Sacramental Church. Jesus models how the Gospel is shared through relationships of discipleship. His method can seem counterintuitive; He spent most of His time with a small group of people. His investment in a few changed the world. Our investment in a few has the power to do the same.

"I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization and to the mission ad gentes. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples"

Bl. John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, no. 3

# Jesus models evangelization to four distinct groups.

CROWDS  
of  
FOLLOWERS

DISCIPLES

APOSTLES

PETER, JAMES  
and JOHN

In the Gospels, Jesus has given us a model for sharing life and faith with others. He interacted with a variety of people, however we see a clear distinction in His priorities of time and relationship. He invested most deeply in relationships with 12 and 3. Jesus gave the majority of His time in sharing life and prayer with these 12 and 3. This example introduced a specific way of living, especially to his three – Peter, James and John. These three men, modeling the way of Jesus, engaged in deep relationships and served as missionary disciples spreading Christianity to the world. We are the Church, we are invited to this same mission.

**Our baptism is a call to a life of discipleship.**

Through prayer and sacramental grace, we are equipped to intentionally live as missionary disciples. This resource will help you develop your specific plan for mission. Your unique mission fulfills your call to share the Gospel with the world.

# Crowds to Three

## HOW DID JESUS EVANGELIZE?

### JESUS AND THE CROWDS Reaching the multitudes

“Great crowds were traveling with him,  
and he turned and addressed them...”  
Luke 14:25

## TIME & ENERGY



## HOW DO I EVANGELIZE?

### Crowds and Me Reaching the multitudes

How can I be an example of living a  
Christian life to the crowds around me?  
(neighborhood, work place, social media)

### JESUS AND THE 72 Engaging committed followers Disciples

“After this the Lord appointed seventy two others  
whom he sent ahead of him in pairs  
to every town and place he intended to visit.”  
Luke 10:1



### 72 AND ME Engaging committed followers of Jesus

How do I engage  
other committed followers  
of Christ by my word or deed? (parish  
events, parish organizations, service/  
outreach projects, and formation)

### JESUS AND THE 12 Forming a small group of disciples Apostles

“Jesus sent out  
these twelve after instructing them...”  
Matthew 10:5



### 12 AND ME Forming a group of shared discipleship

Which of my encounters are opportunities  
to invite others to share their story,  
become disciples or mature in their  
discipleship journey?  
(club/organization gatherings, small  
groups, faith studies, lay movement)

### JESUS AND THE 3 Intentionally mentoring 3 disciples Peter, James, and John

“After 6 days Jesus took Peter, James, and John  
and led them up a high mountain apart by  
themselves...”  
Mark 9:2

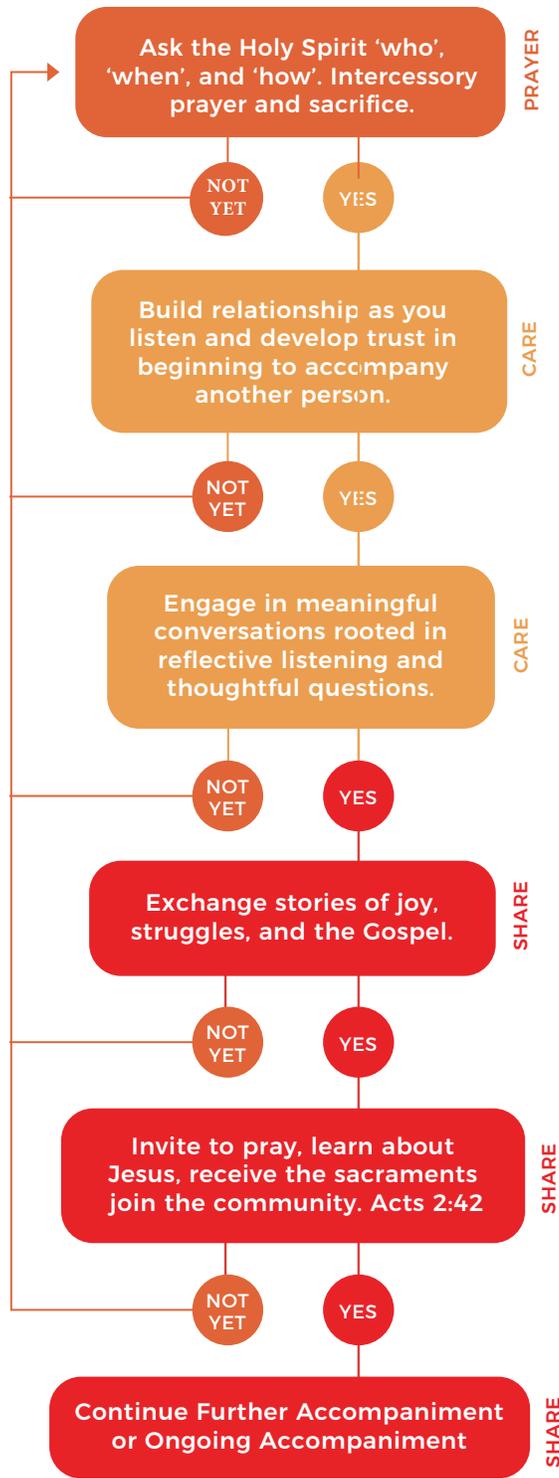


### 3 AND ME Intentionally accompanying three disciples

Who might God be calling me to  
personally accompany in spiritual  
friendship?

# Prayer-Care-Share

## Spiritual Friendships



# Mission & Action

## Becoming More Intentional

Our individual relationships should reflect the interactions of Jesus. His model of sharing life and encouraging each person to grow closer to the heart of God serves as the example of authentic relational love. This highlights the priority we give to living out our personal apostolate of evangelization. We follow Jesus' example using the Crowds to Three model and practicing prayer-care-share in our relationships. Each of us, as a disciple of Christ, is called to His mission of making disciples.

"But you will receive power when the HOLY SPIRIT comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

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# UNDERSTANDING PRAYER-CARE-SHARE

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**PRAYER** is the first action of evangelization. We root into and receive God's grace when we are connected to Him. Living in relationship with Christ empowers us to bring His love to those we encounter. Through prayer, we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. This is not easy work! We live in a world of distractions and are offered many good things to do with our time. However, many of these good efforts do not grow our holiness. True holiness is rooted in prayerful abandonment to God's will. Our surrender to Christ allows us to reflect the holy joy of His Love to others. This surrender also encourages divine appointments -- occasions of encounter outside of our control, but fully within God's plan. It is imperative that we are intentionally creating time for prayer in our lives to grow closer to Christ and allow Him to work through us.

**CARE** is our lived out expression of God's love. It is an overflow of the internal abundance of grace received in our relationship with Christ through prayer and the sacraments. We follow Christ's example of receiving people with love and offering the support they need. Just as we have been received and supported in our spiritual journey, so we do the same for those Christ brings into our lives. Many times, our first action of care is to listen. We cannot know how best to receive and support others unless we know their heart and have gained their trust. Every person has a unique story, we must never accept a label in place of their story. For those who are married and/or have children, these immediate relationships of care take priority. Likewise, priests have a responsibility to nurture the relationships of their flock (parishioners/brothers) with Jesus.

**SHARE** is our opportunity to respond in offering our story with others. Sharing our unique journey into deep relationship with Christ and His Church serves as a witness of love. We validate the deepest identity of another as a Child of God when we speak to their heart in love. We trust the primary work of conversion to the Holy Spirit, our human power cannot fully convert the heart to Christ. We cannot be interested in winning the argument or convincing the mind, but focus on serving the heart in genuine friendship. As we share, we will see the opportunity for deeper relationship and feel the call to individual accompaniment. This is the deepest investment of time and energy, and is the specific relationship lived out with your 3. Sharing within accompaniment is very personal and self-reflective. As you accompany individuals, you will have the opportunity to share the Gospel message of Christ's love (Kerygma). Increased awareness of Christ's invitation to respond to that love encourages others to genuinely open their heart. This vulnerability can be very scary and new; your presence in their life offers a strong support and model of lived relationship with God.

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# Evangelization

Fulfilling the Great Commission by living out the Great Commandment

"..love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...  
love your neighbor as yourself."

Mark 12:31

Jesus has called each one of us to fulfill His mission to share the Gospel. On the road to Emmaus, He gave a clear direction to His followers. Each one of us is given the confidence of His Presence in our mission. We connect to Him through prayer and the Sacraments. As our relationship with Jesus is strengthened, we experience His Grace and are enflamed with His Spirit. His Love fills our lives and this love is transmitted as we touch the lives of others.

**Jesus modeled that most of our time and energy in evangelization will be spent with your three, rather than the 12, 72, and crowds. However, He did also model the importance of spending some time and energy witnessing to larger groups. This witness can be simply living as a Catholic Christian. This unique way of living includes a life of prayer, genuinely caring for others and sharing the Gospel message in word and deed.**

**Praying for our communities and caring for their members builds trusting relationships. Sharing stories and time together builds community and creates conversation-rich environments. Listening allows us to truly understand the joy and pain of others. Authentic listening is a tremendous example of intentional care. Caring in this way opens hearts and minds in our home, parish and community.**

**Using the Prayer-Care-Share model, create your personal evangelization plan. Prayerfully consider what God is calling you towards at this time in your life. Reflect on the individual relationships you have with others in your family and community. Prayer,**

**Care, Share serves to strengthen all of your relationships -- both inside and outside of your home. However, the Crowds to 3 framework applies specifically to those outside of your immediate family. Your vocation requires you to prioritize prayer-care-share in your home above those within your extended community.**

We fulfill  
the Great Commission  
by living out  
the Great Commandment.

# Creating Your Evangelization Plan

Make note of your plan below. Specifically outline your call to pray, care and share with your extended community as they fall into the following four distinct groups. Remember, most of your time and energy (outside of your immediate family) should be given to your 3. If your three are clearly identified, write their names below with details on how you will pray, care and share with each. If you are uncertain of these 3, include your desire to know them in your personal prayer and trust that God will reveal them to you!

## CROWDS

72

12

3

1.

2.

3.

**Begin by calling upon the Holy Spirit for guidance:**

Holy Spirit, give me confident faith and a trusting reliance on your Divine Providence as I surrender myself to your will for my life and those that I encourage by faithfully reflecting Your Love.

Reflect and respond to each question in the area provided:

**IN WHAT WAYS MIGHT GOD BE CALLING ME CLOSER TO HIM AND HIS CHURCH THROUGH...?**

**SCRIPTURE -**

**PRAYER -**

**FELLOWSHIP -**

**SACRAMENTS -**

**DIVINE APPOINTMENTS -**

**HOW AM I ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ENFLAME MY HEART IN THESE AREAS?**

**SCRIPTURE -**

**PRAYER -**

**FELLOWSHIP -**

**SACRAMENTS -**

**DIVINE APPOINTMENTS -**

# Enflame Your Heart

In response to the gift of faith that God placed in our hearts, we desire to know, love and serve God in our daily lives.

Our strength for the mission of

evangelization is

found in making

time for Scripture,

praying intimately

and deeply with our

Lord, spending time

with other disciples,

participating in the

liturgy and

sacraments of the

Church, and

listening to the Lord

as he guides the

“whom, what (to say

and do) and when”

of our divine

appointments with

others.

# The First & Last Work of Evangelization

“If Jesus has given us the mission to evangelize, then He wants us to have and to experience a lived relationship with Him. Do I give myself permission to want that? Do I give myself permission to embrace Jesus’ desire to have that relationship with me? Do I often tell Jesus that I want to experience his presence and love? The first and last work of evangelization is to long for that more and more.”

- Msgr. Thomas Richter, Integrated Evangelization

In baptism, Jesus has called and equipped me for the mission of evangelization. He deeply desires for me to develop and experience an ongoing relationship with Him.

What is the deep desire of my heart?

Do I fully recognize and embrace Jesus' desire to know me personally and be invited into my life ?

Do I create time and space in my daily life to grow my relationship with Jesus?

Do I share with Christ my own desire to fully experience His Presence and love in my life?

The first and last work of evangelization is to more deeply desire Jesus in our heart.

# Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus Christ, before ascending into heaven,  
you promised to send the Holy Spirit upon your Church,  
to complete the work you began  
in those whom you loved and called.  
Renew in us, we pray, that same Holy Spirit.

Grant us the Spirit of Wisdom,  
that we may desire the imperishable over that which passes,  
the Spirit of Understanding,  
that our minds may be enlightened by the light of your divine truth,  
the Spirit of Right Counsel,  
that our choices may always be pleasing to you,  
the Spirit of Fortitude,  
that we may willingly bear the cross with you  
and overcome all obstacles to salvation,  
the Spirit of Knowledge,  
that we may overcome doubt and grow in faithfulness,  
the Spirit of Piety,  
that we may always find sweetness in our prayer and service,  
the Spirit of Wonder and Awe,  
that we may rightly fear your justice as we trust in your mercy.

Mark us, most loving Lord,  
with the gifts of true discipleship,  
that we may be animated by your Spirit,  
and recommit ourselves to the work  
of spreading the Good News of your Gospel.  
You live and reign with the Father  
and the same Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.



*Enflame Our*

**HEARTS HOMES COMMUNITIES**

Archdiocese of Kansas City In Kansas, Office of Evangelization