

**Personal Evangelization Plan: Fulfilling the Great Comission by living out the Great Commandment**



# **Crowds to Three**

**Christ-Modeled Evangelization Using the Prayer-Care-Share Approach**

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## Understanding Crowds to Three

### Baptized Into Mission

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 counter-intuitive; 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.**

We believe that "...the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." (Matthew 12:23)

Jesus models evangelization to four distinct groups. He invested most deeply in relationships with 12 and 3. He 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 a missionary disciple. 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?

## TIME & ENERGY

## HOW DO I EVANGELIZE?

### JESUS AND THE CROWDS

#### Reaching the multitudes

**World** - "Great crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and addressed them..."  
Luke 14:25



### THE CROWDS AND ME

#### Reaching the multitudes

Places I could be an example of living a Christian life to the crowds might include my neighborhood, my workplace, or through 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

Places I could engage other committed followers of Christ by my word or deed might include parish events, parish organizations, service and outreach projects, formation.

### JESUS AND THE 12

#### Forming a group of disciples

**Apostles** - "Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them..."  
Mathew 10:5



### 12 AND ME

#### Forming a group of disciples

Places I could help others become disciples or mature in their discipleship journey might include small faith groups, bible studies, or a lay movement.

### JESUS AND THE 3

#### Intentionally mentoring 3 disciples

**Peter, James, and John** - "After 6 days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and lead them up a high mountain apart by themselves..."  
Mark 9:2



### 3 AND ME

#### Intentionally mentoring 3 disciples

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

# Prayer, Care, Share

## Becoming More Intentional in Mission & Action

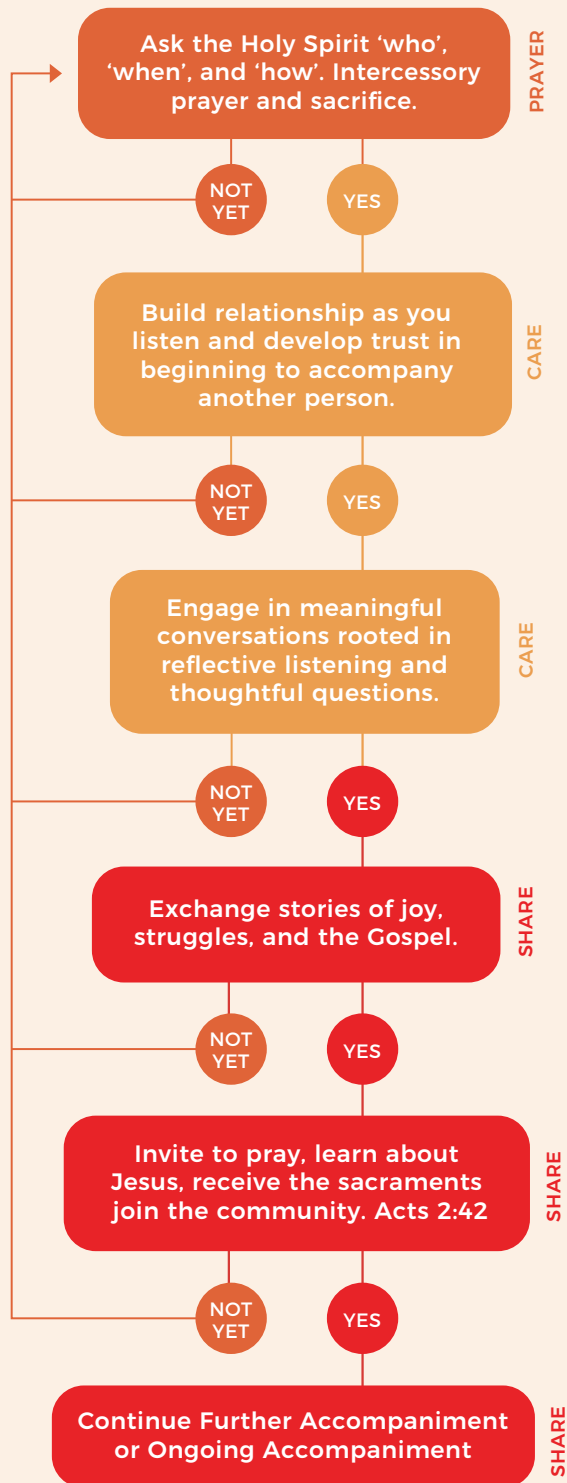
Our individual relationships should reflect the interactions of Jesus. His model of sharing life and encouraging each person to grow closer to the heart of God serves as the example of authentic relational love. This highlights the priority we give to living out our personal apostolate of evangelization. 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.

## UNDERSTANDING PRAYER, CARE, SHARE

**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.



## Evangelization

Fulfilling the Great Commission by living out the Great Commandment

**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:**

“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.” (The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20)

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:

“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.’” (The Great Commandment Matthew 22:36-40).

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

# Creating Your Evangelization Plan

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 open(s) 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 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.

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.

# Enflame Your Heart

## The First & Last Work of Evangelization

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.

**Begin by calling upon the Holy Spirit for guidance:** Holy Spirit, give me confident faith and a lighthearted reliance upon You. As I surrender myself to you, empower me to touch others with Your love.

Write a response for each question in the following areas:

### 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

## 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

If Jesus has given me the mission to evangelize, then He wants me to develop and experience a real and ongoing relationship with Him.

Do I feel the desire in my heart to want that?

Do I fully recognize and embrace Jesus’ desire to have that relationship with me?

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

Do I share my desire to fully experience His Presence and love with Jesus?

The first and last work of evangelization is to long for more Jesus in our heart.