



Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis

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Results of the Diocesan *Go and Make Disciples* Survey

***Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States* was approved by the members of the United States Conference of Bishops in November 1992. The Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis in 2009 surveyed U.S. dioceses seeking information on how *Go and Make Disciples* has been implemented. The survey consisted of three questions focused on the three goals established in *Go and Make Disciples*. The results of the survey has been summarized in a chart which outlines the top three initiatives and challenges in implementing *Go and Make Disciples* as reported by the responding dioceses.**

Question 1: “To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.” Please describe any diocesan or parish initiative which has been successful in creating an enthusiasm among practicing Catholics to live their faith better and to want to share it with others.

The top three responses and challenges from the responding dioceses are listed below along with selected examples of how dioceses implemented these initiatives.

<p>Initiatives</p>	<p>Catechetical Institutes/Schools/Courses:</p> <p>Numerous dioceses responded that they sponsor or are affiliated with a diocese that has a catechetical institute or school. Some dioceses also offer catechetical courses through a Catholic University or Seminary. These courses range in length from academic semesters to half-day workshops and are typically geared toward continuing education formation for professional staff, catechist certification for teachers, and those seeking to learn more about their faith.</p>	<p>Parish Based Evangelization Initiatives:</p> <p>These initiatives varied but many included parish based formation programs for all ages, family based catechesis, lecture series, workshops on how to speak about one’s faith in public, formation programs liturgical ministers, sacramental catechesis, marriage formation programs for young adults, young adult ministries, youth ministry and vocation awareness programs.</p>	<p>Diocesan Wide Evangelization Initiative:</p> <p>These initiatives varied among dioceses but included pastoral letters, convocations on evangelization, required formation workshops and prayer days for clergy and lay employees on evangelization.</p>
<p>Challenges to Initiatives:</p>	<p>Lack of Formation of Laity:</p> <p>Survey responders gave several reasons that could be categorized as a lack of formation of the laity including: belief that evangelization is something other Christians do, being uncomfortable with talking with others about their faith because they lack an adult level of faith education, being busy with work, family and school activities.</p>	<p>Lack of Resources/Distance:</p> <p>This challenge included reasons such as: the distance from parishes to the location where events were held, rural parishes lacking the financial resources to either support evangelization activities or hire a staff person, and the cost of producing diocesan wide programs.</p>	<p>Lack of Formation of Clergy:</p> <p>Survey responders gave several reasons that could be categorized as a lack of formation by the clergy including: pastors are overwhelmed with day to day parish tasks, parishes lack the resources to hire a staff person dedicated to evangelization, a lack of a cohesive diocesan vision of evangelization.</p>

Question 2: “To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic Faith” (#53). Please describe any diocesan or parish initiative which has been successful in fostering a desire among inactive Catholics to return to the practice of the faith, or in fostering a desire among non-Catholics to become part of the Church.

The top three responses and challenges from the responding dioceses are listed below along with selected examples of how dioceses implemented these initiatives.

<p>Initiatives</p>	<p>Reconciliation Services/ Welcome Back Masses:</p> <p>Over half of the responding dioceses indicated that they sponsored a diocesan wide campaign geared toward inactive Catholics which included events similar to: Reconciliation /Healing Masses, Welcome Home Masses, designated parishes offering extended hours for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and parish support groups for people considering coming back to the Church.</p>	<p>RCIA:</p> <p>A significant number of dioceses reported that RCIA parish programs were consistently fostering a desire among people to join the Church. Responders also indicated that RCIA programs were most effective when the catechumenate model was applied to the entire parish community.</p>	<p>Diocesan Training Programs on How to Evangelize, Parishioner to Parishioner Visits, Outreach to Immigrants:</p> <p>These three initiatives were equally ranked as important initiatives by the responders. Diocesan training programs included one-day workshops and longer courses for clergy, staff and volunteers on how to evangelize. Parishes reported good success with programs designed to encourage home visits from active parishioners to inactive parishioners.</p> <p>Parishes and Dioceses that engaged to direct outreach in native languages to immigrants reported great success in those people joining the Church.</p>
<p>Challenges to Initiatives:</p>	<p>Lack of Resources/Distance:</p> <p>This challenge included reasons such as: the distance from parishes to the location where events were held, rural parishes lacking the financial resources to either support evangelization activities or hire a staff person, and the cost of producing diocesan wide programs.</p>	<p>Lack of Formation of Laity:</p> <p>Survey responders gave several reasons that could be categorized as a lack of formation of the laity including: belief that evangelization is something other Christians do, being uncomfortable with talking with others about their faith because they lack an adult level of faith education, being busy with work, family and school activities.</p>	<p>Lack of Formation of Clergy:</p> <p>Survey responders gave several reasons that could be categorized as a lack of formation by the clergy including: pastors are overwhelmed with day to day parish tasks, parishes lack the resources to hire a staff person dedicated to evangelization, a lack of a cohesive diocesan vision of evangelization.</p>

Question 3: “To foster Gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ” (#56). Please describe any diocesan or parish initiative which has been successful in helping the Catholic faithful bring Church teaching and Gospel values to bear on public life.

<p>Initiatives</p>	<p>Catholic Charities/Direct Service Opportunities:</p> <p>Over half of the responding dioceses indicated that the most successful way of bringing Gospel values to bear on public life was through direct service and charity to the poor. Direct service opportunities primarily occurred through Catholic Charity Offices’ or CCHD grants, or through parish based food pantries, homeless ministries, Catholic school opportunities for the poor and prison ministries.</p>	<p>State Catholic Conferences:</p> <p>Numerous dioceses responded that State Catholic Conferences were effective in helping to educate Catholics and the society at large on issues such as immigration, health care reform, pro-life issues, marriage, and family life. They also indicated that legislative days and rallies sponsored by the State Catholic Conferences were important tools for a successful initiative.</p>	<p>Faithful Citizenship Workshops/Lectures:</p> <p>Dioceses indicated that initiatives on Faithful Citizenship were effective ways of bringing Church teachings into public life. Initiatives on Faithful Citizenship included one day workshops, month long lecture series, and diocesan wide resource materials</p>
<p>Challenges to Initiatives:</p>	<p>Secularity:</p> <p>Survey responders gave several reasons that could be categorized as secularity including growing numbers of people opposed to religious traditions, the secular media’s portrayal of religious beliefs, people’s belief that the Church should only comment on moral issues not political ones.</p>	<p>Lack of Understanding about Social Mission of the Church:</p> <p>Several responders indicated that a challenge to promoting Gospel values in the public life is lack of knowledge among Catholics about the social mission of the Church. Responders indicated that most parishioners are willing to donate money to charitable causes but are uncomfortable engaging in direct service to the poor or evangelize on the importance of social justice issues to the common good.</p>	<p>Lack of resources/Distance:</p> <p>This challenge included reasons such as: the distance from parishes to the location where events were held, rural parishes lacking the financial resources to either support evangelization activities or hire a staff person, and the cost of producing diocesan wide programs.</p>