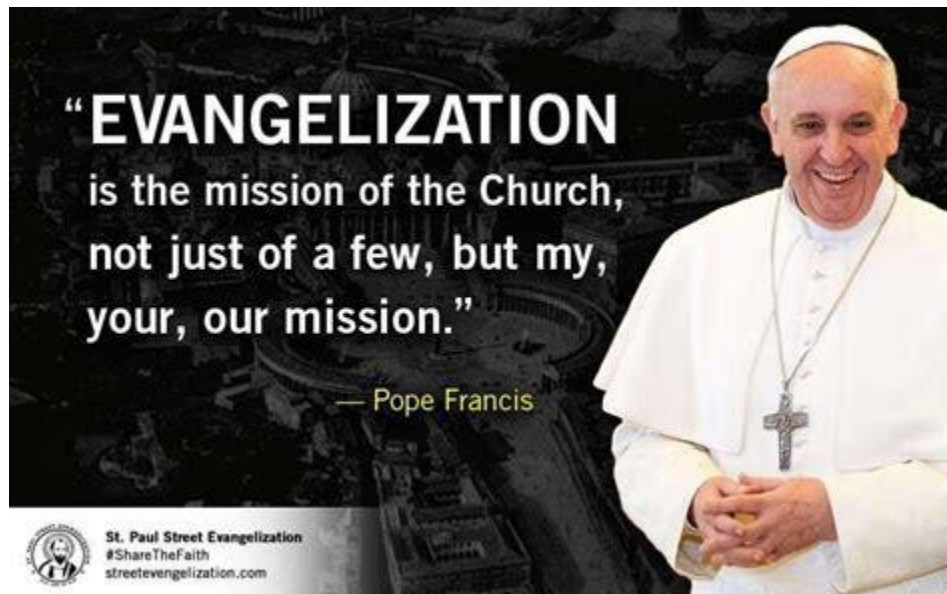


FROM FATHER JOHN: *“Had not the LORD been with us - let Israel say, had not the LORD been with us - When men rose up against us, then would they have swallowed us alive, When their fury was inflamed against us. Then would the waters have overwhelmed us; The torrent would have swept over us; over us then would have swept the raging waters. Blessed be the LORD, who did not leave us a prey to their teeth. We were rescued like a bird from the fowlers’ snare; Broken was the snare, and we were freed. Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” ~ Psalm 124*

Our help is in the name of the Lord!!!



The following is a direct link to today’s scripture readings (15th Sunday of Ordinary Time):

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/071121.cfm>

We see a consistent theme in our readings for today’s mass; to go out into the world and proclaim the Good News of Christ Jesus to all people. We call this evangelization and the best place to do this is in our homes, in our neighborhoods and in our community with our family, friends and neighbors.

In 1982, while addressing the Bishops of Nigeria and in 1983 while addressing the Bishops in Latin America, St. Pope John Paul II said, “We need a New Evangelization, new in zeal, new in Method and new in Expression”. He proclaimed that "the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization ...

No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this **supreme duty**: to proclaim Christ to all peoples."

Benedict XVI said that whereas "the Church always evangelizes and has never interrupted the path of evangelization... New evangelization means: never being satisfied with the fact that from the grain of a mustard seed, the great tree of the Universal Church grew... Large things always begin from the small seed."

In our first reading today, Amos answered Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor have I belonged to a company of prophets; I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. The LORD took me from following the flock, and **said to me, Go, prophesy to my people Israel.**"

In our gospel reading, our Lord "**Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits... So they went off and preached repentance.**"

At the end of Matthew's gospel, right before our Lord Jesus ascended into heaven he said, "**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.**"

One of the major challenges faced by Jesus and His disciples, was to get the message, the Good News, across to people. Sometimes it got lost because of opposition to our Lord.

The message that our Lord Jesus has brought to us also gets lost in our day and age. Sometimes it gets lost in the clutter of our busy lives, sometimes it gets lost in our secular society's resistance to our faith, sometimes it gets lost because of our own sinfulness, sometimes it gets lost because we get complacent and fail to proclaim the good news, sometimes it gets lost because we don't know how to proclaim the message of our Lord Jesus.

So how do we, right here at St. Ann's, go about **proclaiming the Good News of our Lord Jesus**? How do we go about fulfilling, what St. John Paul II said, was our **Supreme Duty** as a believer in Christ? How do we go about **making disciples of all nations**? We see an answer to these questions in the history of the Church and how the church has gone about evangelization throughout the centuries.

St. Paul used the tools of his day to bring the Good News of Salvation to the gentiles. He used the Roman system of roads to move from place to place so that he could proclaim the gospel to the towns and cities of the Mediterranean. He used the Roman postal system to stay in contact with the various churches through His series of Letters. He used his Roman citizenship to move about freely, he used his reputation as a Pharisee to reach out to the Ancient Israelites and he used his experience as a tentmaker to support himself in his travels.

During the Middle Ages, the Church used the system of monasteries to spread the Good News. The sacred scriptures were copied in, and distributed from, the monasteries. One monk would read the sacred scripture in a room of thirty or forty or fifty monks who would all transcribe what they heard. These crude bibles would then be sent out of the monastery to the towns and churches across Europe. The medieval church used the tools of its day to spread the Good News.

Johannes Gutenberg, somewhere around the year 1440, invented the printing press. The church began to print bibles and to use printed texts of sacred scripture, of prayers, of the writings of the Church fathers, of the Roman Missal, etc. The Church of the second half of the second millennia used the tools of its day to spread the Good News.

On February 12, 1931, Pope Pius XI gave the first ever radio message by a Pope. The Vatican Radio was born. Once again, the Church used the tools of the day to spread the Good News.

In 1951, Archbishop Fulton Sheen moved from hosting his weekly Sunday night radio broadcast, *The Catholic Hour*, to hosting the Catholic television program, *Life is Worth Living*. It aired every Tuesday evening at 8:00 pm for six years. In 1980, Mother Angelica, PCPA founded The Eternal Word Television Network, known as EWTN, to broadcast Roman Catholic programming around-the-clock. Again, the Church used the tools of the day to spread the Good News.

So how do we Spread the Good News here at St. Ann's? How do we get our Lord's message across to people?

We use the tools of **OUR** day to proclaim the Good News to all the people of our parish and to the people of our surrounding community. We use the internet, email, social media, Livestream video, the U.S. Postal System, etc. to bring the message of our Lord Jesus to every one we can reach.

Each and every one of us, from young to old, can evangelize, can do our “**supreme duty**” in about two to three minutes a day using social media. Our parish is posting inspirational and spiritual material on our Facebook Page, on our webpage and through email blasts to our parishioners every single day! You can help us in this New Evangelization, in the effort to build up the Church and the Kingdom of God right here at St. Ann’s, by taking the time to do three simple things on your Facebook Page.

First, you can follow St. Ann Parish on Facebook. It’s easy to do and will ensure that you receive all of our posts in your newsfeed. You can invite all the people you know in the area who are on Facebook, especially if they are members of our parish, to follow our Facebook page so that they will also receive our inspirational posts. And, finally, you can share our posts with your friends on Facebook.

The simple act of following us, inviting your friends and contacts to follow us and sharing our posts with people in the greater Channahon area will help us bring the Good News to so many people through short (well, except for my posts) inspirational posts.

We never know what is going to truly touch the heart and soul of another person but we do know that if we can get our Lord’s message in front of people, sooner or later, the hand of God will inspire them to an ever deeper relationship with our Lord. And we will have fulfilled the command of Lord Jesus, “**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.**”

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

