



Invest time each week to
expand your vocabulary and
deepen your faith.

21 April 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Evangelist *vi-'van-jə-list*

One who announces Good News, particularly the message of the gospel. Often refers exclusively to the four gospel writers Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. The New Testament also uses this term in reference to Philip, the deacon, and Timothy, a worker with Paul.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-Evangelist>

CONTEXT

Evangelizers take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

We are all **evangelists**, but we almost always **evangelize** about the wrong things.

—Matthew Kelly

Saint Juan Diego, the peasant to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared, is essentially the **evangelizer** of an entire hemisphere. —USCCB.org

WHY IT MATTERS

All Christians are summoned to the role of **evangelists**, a term first used in reference to the gospel writers in the third century. As followers of Jesus, our common vocation is to bring Good News to the poor, sick, lonely, imprisoned, and socially marginalized. The words of the four primary **evangelists**—Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John—instruct us in the mission we're invited to share.

From *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Evangelization in the Modern World): The world is calling for **evangelizers** to speak to it of a God whom the **evangelists** themselves should know and be familiar with [122].

RELATED WORDS

Mission | Vocation | Gospel | Proclamation

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What's an evangelist?

Evangelist translates from Greek as "messenger of good tidings." All baptized persons are called to be such messengers. Isaiah speaks of the "beautiful feet" of those who bring Good News. Ephesians describes apostles, prophets, and **evangelists** as central players in the church. Biblically, **evangelist** is not an exclusive term.

By the third century, the formal list of **evangelists** is reduced to the four gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They concretized the Good News the church would proclaim going forward.

By the fourth century, the symbology of the four **evangelists** became standardized as man, lion, ox, and eagle. Facing the four directions, these extraordinary creatures are four and yet unified in movement. They also burn like hot coals. Matthew, whose gospel emphasizes Jesus' humanity, is represented by the man. Mark highlights Jesus' divinity and kingship, so is identified as the lion. Luke holds up the sacrificial role of Jesus and so becomes the ox. John is the eagle as his gospel soars with a transcendent perspective on Jesus as the Christ.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-Evangelist>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FEAST OF MARK, EVANGELIST (APRIL 25)

I've got Good News

Mark was an **evangelist**, one who brings Good News. He was also one of the four **evangelists** who are credited with writing the gospels. Mark's gospel is the shortest, but it packs a punch with its message of the suffering servant Jesus who endured defeat and death so that we all might be saved.

READINGS: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 (555 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/042524.cfm>). "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

FAITH IN ACTION

Mark's mission of sharing the Good News of our salvation didn't stop with him. It extends to all who hear and believe the gospel. Bring the Good News to someone around you today.