

## Living the Spirit Evangelization

One of the desires of the Church these days is that all its members get involved in what is called the “new evangelization.” The word itself expresses our common desire to tell the good news. What good news, we may ask, as we see so much in our world today of sorrow and degradation. Yet, there really always is good news if we turn to the resources that our faith provides.

Because we are believers we accept that all that evil that surrounds us will in the end be overcome. We know we have been blessed with a world view that tells us that goodness will triumph in the end. We think of what our faith means to us, and we discover that it is not a matter of mere words. Of course, words are important. Perhaps we can think of the meaning of the Creed that we profess at Mass each week.

We ourselves must be convinced before we can effectively share our faith with others. Often we think of this sharing as a duty only for great saints like St. Francis Xavier. Then the Church reminds us that others can provide a model for evangelization – like St. Therese, who never left her enclosure in her convent. She is called a patroness of those who work to tell the good news in the missions

Closer to our personal experience, we can think perhaps of the parents who are being evangelists when they raise their children to be believers. They do not do this by great gestures, striking words. They do it by example most of all. And then when necessary by words. On a personal level I can think at times of my Mother’s “homilies” – all that advice given that escaped me at times. Once when I showed my concern for the cost of sending envelopes to those who never used them I recall her remark – even if they throw them away, their coming to the home will be a reminder – silent but sure.

We will be hearing a great deal about this effort of evangelizing our culture. We have already been hearing about it, even without using the term. We heard about the story of Samuel. He was unfamiliar with the Lord. Then the Lord called him. It was Eli who told him what that call meant. And Samuel began his mission in life – to listen to the Lord when the Lord spoke to him. We must ask ourselves: am I to be like Eli or someone like Samuel?

Many a homilist tells us from the Gospel message that we should not fail in our own way to be like Andrew who brought his brother Peter to the Lord. If there is someone who is searching for faith, is it possible God wants you to his instrument to leading him or her to share the blessings you have?

Let us not be discouraged if our efforts to be witnesses to the Gospel seem at times not to bear fruit. We must let the Lord who alone can give the grace do just that. Above all we must not hinder that coming of grace. All we have to do, and this is enough at times, is simply to live our own faith, a faith filled with hope and charity or love. There is a phrase in Thomistic philosophy: *bonum diffusum est* – goodness has a way of bringing about more goodness. A good truth for you to contemplate, good friends.

*God love you always and give you His peace!*

*Monsignor David Morrison*