

Are You Keeping the Faith? Well, You Shouldn't! You Should Be Giving It Away!

On April 24th and 25th, 23 enthusiastic St. Tim's parishioners were part of the 170 enthusiastic participants from parishes in the Archdiocese to attend the New Evangelization Summit.

Over the course of 10 hours, via simulcast from Ottawa, we listened to eight of the leading experts from Canada and the US tell us about "The New Evangelization".

The intention of the presentations was to inspire us: to set our hearts on fire with a love for Christ and a desire to make Him known. We are called to be instruments of God's grace for others.

What did we learn? Some of the notable points were:

- The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelization
- Givers grow, takers don't. If God does something in you it's because he wants it to flow through you, he does not want you to be a reservoir!
- Love is like water - it seeks the lowest place
- Mercy is more powerful than evil
- Catechesis is for the converted; evangelization is for the unconverted
- Many of the people who come for sacraments (baptism, marriage) are non-practicing Catholics. Why? Because we don't evangelize them. They are at our door and we do nothing.
- By virtue of baptism, all Catholics are called to holiness and evangelization, ie. to be a saint and a missionary.

So what is the New Evangelization about?

- It's about nourishing the already baptized and then for those people to go out and evangelize the unbaptized - Archbishop LeGatt
- It's about developing the ability to use words to speak about Jesus
- It's about taking up a concern for the common good, eg. the environment, the unborn
- It's about bringing Catholics to the fullness of Catholicism through catechesis
- It's inhaling God's word and exhaling it
- It's about the Joy of the Gospel - Pope Francis. Others will find this joy irresistible



Photo: St. Tim's at the New Evangelization Summit - 2015

Back from left: Grace Grindean, Richard Davis, Mary Barrett, Jill Ferley, Linda Davis, Dorothy Lachance, Gisele Ruberandinda, Val Key, Philibert Ruberandinda, Tom Lussier, Arlene Dorge, Fr. Phil Daley, Marilyn Hido, Bill Watson

Seated/kneeling: Marilyn Hendzel, Frank Conway, Ashley Walus, Audrey Du

(missing from photo: Mike Fritschij, Tanis Kemerle, Josie Landry, Andrée Lussier and Cindy Ritchot.

- It's about "drawing in".
- It's a complete and sincere adherence to Christ and his gospel through faith
- It's about leading with kindness and listening.
- We are more likely to listen to witnesses than to teachers

By Marilyn Hendzel

When do we start? What happens next?

There are TWO opportunities to continue exploring & learning more about Evangelization:

- There will be a follow-up meeting for the St. Tim's team AND anyone else in the parish who is interested in learning more about evangelization in our parish. Join us on Thursday, June 11 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the parish hall. For more details, call Grace at the parish office at 204-949-3760.
- 'FIRESIDE CHAT': Follow-Through to the NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT – Wednesday, June 17, 2015. Many expressed a desire to get together and share on what inspired you at the New Evangelization Summit and next steps. Bring your story in a shared conversation with others. Add your log to the fire. How can you start a fire in your parish? What is the first thing that inspired you to action for the New Evangelization? Come to this Fireside Chat on Wednesday, 7:00 pm at St. Emile Parish, 556 St. Anne's Road. For more details, contact Lillian Ćulumović: 204-594-0276

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