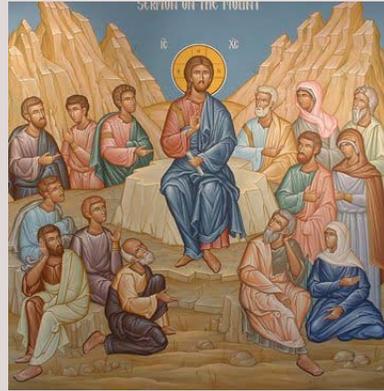


MISSION FOR EVANGELIZATION

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Mission can be defined in two ways, the sending of a person by him who has authority to send, and a specific task that the sender entrusts to the person sent.¹ Within this twofold definition there are four dimensions of mission: theological, anthropological, historical, and practical, upon which I will be expanding in this reflection paper. First, it is important to define evangelization; and how mission and evangelization work together. Evangelization is the act or the process of proclaiming the Good News of Christ to all people, with a view to establishing the kingdom of God. The main goal is to lead others to the faith, freedom and peace of Christ by grace and the sacraments.² Mission and evangelization encourage one another. The mission is to bring people in to relationship with Christ and it is achieved through evangelization.



The first dimension of mission for evangelization is the theological dimension. The mission of evangelization is and should always be Christocentric meaning Christ needs to be at the center. He is the end goal of all mission and evangelization. Therefore His teachings that He has given us in the Church should be honored and passed on intact. The theological teachings that are shared by each member of the Church must correlate to the universal teachings of the Church; individuals should not be indifferent to what the Church is teaching or stray from her truth, creating their own truth.³

The second dimension of mission for evangelization is the anthropological dimension. The people that are being evangelized have a specific culture and will therefore receive the Good News in a specific way. If we are to reach people, we must meet them where they are at and then elevate them, just as Christ in the Incarnation came to us and by his death he made us adopted children of our Heavenly Father. Although cultural aspects must be considered, the content of the gospel still must be delivered whole and complete.

The third dimension of mission for evangelization is the historical dimension. The history of the place and the history of missionary activity in that place are crucial for understanding the needs and methods of evangelization that may be effective.⁴

Lastly, the practical dimension of mission for evangelization should follow the practical method that Jesus modeled for us when he was sent by the Father on His salvific mission; that is relational ministry. Foundationally this method will remain constant but the practicalities of how it is enfolded will vary depending on the other dimensions and the challenging circumstances in which we live today. For example the de-Christianization of countries will call for different methods than those who have not yet heard the Good News of the Gospel of God.

¹Anaeto, Dominic, Fr., PS 514: Mission and Evangelization; Lesson Summaries- Week One: Definition of Mission.

²Cf; Anaeto, Dominic, Fr., PS 514: Mission and Evangelization; Lesson Summaries- Week Two: Definition of Evangelization.

³Cf; Redemptoris Missio, 36

⁴Cf; Evangelii Nuntiandi, 62

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