Vision 20/20
EVANGELIZATION TEAMS: NOW WHAT

“So we have an ‘evangelization team.’ What do we do now?”

Acts 2: God’s Initiative
“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” v.1-4
Acts 2: Our Response

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing meals (including the Lord’s Supper) and to prayer.”
v.42

Acts 2: The Blueprint

- Devotion to the apostles’ teaching
- Devotion to fellowship
- Devotion to sharing meals
- Devotion to prayer

“Devotion: love, loyalty, enthusiasm for a person, a cause or an activity.”
Acts 2: Devotion to...

Person

Cause

Activity

Acts 2: The Blueprint

- Devotion to the apostles’ teaching
- Devotion to fellowship
- Devotion to sharing meals
- Devotion to prayer

1) Devotion to Prayer

- The #1 Non-negotiable
2) Devotion to Apostles’ Teaching

Joy of the Gospel is our working document

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL fills the hearts and lives of all those who encounter Jesus.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM, 1

We cannot forget that evangelization is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM, 14
“All of us are called to take part in this new missionary ‘going forth’... To go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the ‘peripheries’ in need of the light of the Gospel.

Evangelii Gaudium, 20

“An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives... Evangelizers thus take on the ‘smell of the sheep’ and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.

Evangelii Gaudium, 24

“I dream of a ‘missionary option’ capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures, can be suitably channeled for evangelization.

Evangelii Gaudium, 27
3) Devotion to Fellowship

- Relational emphasis
- Incarnational
- Encounter
- Sharing our stories of faith

Building Authentic Relationships

- Take the initiative
- Express authentic interest
- Ask questions (Jesus was the perfect model)
- Find their “rose gardens”
- Sharing our stories of faith

“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.”

Ecclesiam Gaudeo, 3
Cultivating Encounter with One Another

- Do you really know the people you’re working with?
- Do you know their stories? Their stories of faith?
- Their joys and sorrows?
- Do you know what motivates them? What scares them?
- Their deepest desires?

Life Stories: An Exercise in Encounter

- Before your evangelization team even thinks about ‘going out’, they must share their stories of faith, take hold of the encounter within, and lift them up to the Lord
- St. Paul’s - What we did
- “Six word autobiographies”

4) Devotion to Sharing Meals
Non-Negotiables to Developing Your Evangelization Team

- Unabashedly Christo-centric
- Relentlessly missional
- Focuses on relationships
- Comfortable versus grey space (Evangelization is MESSY! Be comfortable with mess)
- Frontier versus laboratory
- More prayerful and spirit led than strategic
- Spirit filled Evangelizers (Chapter 5 Joy of the Gospel)

What has been the most helpful for us?

- Willingness to ask tough questions
- Brutally honest in our self assessment, humility
- Synergy with various parish groups
- Interpersonal more than strategic
- Life on life. Getting to know each other. Acts 2
- Spiritual friendship