

Guideposts for *Unleash the Gospel*

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Last week focused on the Foundations of Synod 16 and the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter, *Unleash the Gospel*. We are called to respond with joy to the Spirit and be made into "an outward, mission-focused church" following Christ. The *Way* for us is marked by "guideposts" that provide us direction as we move forward to share the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ with everyone we meet.

In a very small "nut-shell" these **10 Guideposts** are:

#1: The New Pentecost: By the Holy Spirit we are empowered to live out our faith, to "repent and believe in the Gospel." We should expect this proclamation to be accompanied by "signs and wonders" great and small around us, signs that "convince people that Jesus Christ is truly alive."

#2: With **Eyes Fixed on Jesus**, we should invite people to encounter Jesus and share our own stories showing how Jesus is the source of our joy.

#3: The **Word Made Flesh** declares Jesus *is* in the world. We meet him in the Church community, in Scripture, in Reconciliation, and in the Holy Eucharist.

#4: Let us become better **Equipped for Service to the Gospel**. We should seek to learn more about how to share the Gospel. We should pray to discern and to embrace our **charisms**, those gifts we received from the Holy Spirit for the good of the Church.

#5: There are **No Bystanders**. Evangelization is the work of us all: first, because we are out in society, us lay men and women (especially young adults), and then priests, deacons and religious.

#6: We share the Gospel best by **Personal Engagement**, one person at a time. Go out together, supported by others, whether to the streets, in our homes, or online!

#7: "**Families** are at the very heart of ... *Unleash the Gospel*, because they are the first and most important setting in which evangelization takes place."

#8: Be "attractive" Christian witnesses of "joy, hospitality and generous service to the poor."

#9: Encounter, Grow, Witness. This is the proven process for evangelization in our local Church and how we *Unleash the Gospel*. Every person is called to encounter Jesus anew so we are closer to him; to grow daily as his disciple so we come to know him better; and to give witness to the power of his mercy by the way we live our lives and tell others about him.

#10: Call Upon the Advocate. We should pray to the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Star of Evangelization. Consider joining with the STM Intercessory Prayer Group to pray for our faithfulness to the Gospel and protection from the "spiritual opposition" to our parish's mission.

Next week, we will discuss the **Propositions and Action Steps** by which we will "*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*" (James 1:22) and begin to live the 29th chapter of *The Acts of the Apostles* (look it up!).