

EVANGELIZATION 101. 9

BEFRIENDING AND ACCOMPANYING

BEFRIENDING

Who is Jesus inviting you to befriend, invite, reach out to, show concern for, say “I’m praying for you?” to?

Befriending is not complicated. It’s not another project. It is reaching out with good will and care for the person, and shows itself in the way you relate to another.

ACCOMPANYING

Accompanying offers a guided journey toward conversion to Christ. It’s helping another to recognize God’s activity and grace in their life. It may involve answering questions, catechizing, explaining Church teachings, recommending reading or videos.

The more one is aware of God’s care and activity in their life, the more they may want a relationship with Him. They may consider new possibilities in their relationship with Jesus and the Church. They may open their hearts.

In a secular culture, where institutional religion, rules, doctrine, moral law and authority are resisted and seen as repressive, one must keep the central focus on growing a closer relationship with God. Then everything else may be seen as a blessing, not a threat. It’s important to share our faith in terms of a relationship with God, for example, going to Mass brings us closer to God, rather than we HAVE TO go to Mass.

Accompanying a person in faith is not overbearing, self righteousness, preaching or pushing - it’s ACCOMPANYING THEM.

References: “Enflame Our Hearts, Homes, Community” from Convocation Delegate Handbook 2020, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

“Integrated Evangelization: How to Facilitate the Encounter with Christ” by Msgr. Thomas J. Richter.