

The *Joy* of the Gospel

An Introduction

EVANGELII GAUDIUM



THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL POPE FRANCIS



APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION ON THE PROCLAMATION
OF THE GOSPEL IN TODAY'S WORLD



God Loves Us!

- “It was very good!”
- God gave his only Son...
 - Proof of God’s love!
 - That we may have mercy!
- Personal experience of the Holy Spirit?

A Response of Joy?

- The over-zealous convert (fallen in love!)
- The unfruitful prayer-addict
- “You’ve changed!”
- We WORSHIP
 - Liturgy is meant to be an expression of our joy
 - Gloria!
 - Alleluia! (Praise-God!)
 - Holy! Holy! Holy!
 - Amen!

Why we proclaim...

- Our eternal life is secure!
- Our earthly life has purpose!
- We are not alone!
- Salvation comes through the Church
 - God invites those who know to be baptized

ALL THE BAPTISED ARE CALLED TO ACT, WITHOUT DELAY, AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES.

KERYGMA!

- “Jesus loves you,
- died for you,
- walks with you to
 - enlighten,
 - strengthen and
 - free you.”



How do we do it?

- As communities of missionary disciples

■ TOGETHER

■ SENT TO OTHERS

- Leaving our comfort zones
- Seeking the lost sheep

■ AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

- Don't put second things first!

How, specifically?

- Popular devotions
- Active listening
- Charisms INTEGRATED into parish
- Dialogue with Science
- Catholic Schools (*Open the Book?*)
- Creating community in cities

Buzz stop...



- How could charisms be integrated in your parish?
- How do you build strong relationships between members of your parish or prayer-group?
- Is your parish a community of missionary disciples? If not, what steps are needed?

Called to be virtuous!

- Better homilies!
 - beautiful images to encourage good action
- Don't stress avoiding sin.
- Stress being the good person you are called to be.
- Understanding comes gradually

Tools for the job:

- We appeal to freedom
- Balance, not philosophical position taking
- Use arts (*Evangelium*)
- 1-2-1 accompaniment
- Bible study

What can we do?

- Stable relationships
- Mutual support
- Do do!
- Bless others.
- Reconcile.
- Pray for enemies!
- Develop lay leadership (NB: women, youth)

To whom do we go?

- Those who worship
- The baptized who do not worship
- “Tried that, didn’t work.”
- “Jesus? Who’s he?”

- Marie Beirne, tomorrow...

The Task Ahead:

- Open our doors
- Maximum access to sacraments
- Seek the poor
 - Jesus is your friend
 - Your life has meaning and purpose
 - There is a community for you to belong to

It's not easy!

- Celebrate small victories.
- Don't fret about weeds among the wheat.
- But tend the wheat!
- Be ready to take on the 'smell of the sheep'!
- The Church is messy!

Beware!

- “I’m not good enough!”
- Selfish motives (prosperity, fame)
- Settling for “what works”
- Becoming a closed group
- Taking refuge in the past
- Pursuing pure doctrine/liturgy

Also Beware!

- Self-realization programmes (Pelagius!)
- Being too busy!
- Criticising others
- Being macho or fatalist
- Sterile devotions
- Pursuing institutional security
- Don't confuse the package and the message!

Structural Change

- Leadership vs. Presiding at Eucharist
- Decentralise
- Listen to our critics
- Be close to people on the margins

We are not alone!

- The Holy Spirit motivates us.
- Remind ourselves how Jesus enriches us
- Ask Holy Spirit's help
- Intercession
- Thanksgiving
- Mary our model and intercessor
- Triumphs through tiredness
- "Adopted" by many cultures

Buzz stop...



- How has Jesus enriched you?
- What opportunities do you have to reach those on the margins?
- Who wouldn't feel welcome in your parish?



A Church for the Poor!

- We will be judged on how we treat the poor.
- Listen to the poor.
- Speak for the poor – every Christian a campaigner
- Seek structural change
 - Common Good, not maximum profit
 - Reclaim personal communication!
 - Seek justice for all, daily

Our Priorities!

- less able children;
- trafficked workers;
- vulnerable women;
- the unborn child;
- the global ecosystem.
- Education, healthcare, and employment for all!

Four Principles

- Seek LONG-TERM benefits for all
- RESOLVE CONFLICT, build peace
- DIVERSITY, in Christ, is good
 - Be practical; don't pursue theoretical ideals
 - Find the hidden facets of your society
- WORK LOCALLY, conscious of global issues

Religious Freedom

- Allow all to find truth in own time
- Avoid crude generalisations
- Not all Muslims are violent extremists
- We can work in common with other Christians
- Jews share a biblical heritage
- Seek the Spirit's presence in other religions
- Engage with all who seek truth, goodness, beauty

