



# Navigating the New Evangelization

*“But, as a result of the frequent situations of dechristianization in our day, it [**the First Proclamation**] also proves equally necessary for innumerable people who have been baptized but who live quite outside Christian life, for simple people who have a certain faith but an imperfect knowledge of the foundations of that faith, for intellectuals who feel the need to know Jesus Christ in a light different from the instruction they received as children, and for many others.”*

*Evangelii Nuntiandi, 52*

**Welcome to  
“Total Parish Evangelization”  
with Fr. Dimitri Sala, OFM  
& team**

Dear Pastor:

Thank you for your interest in this ministry! We hope it will be but the beginning of a dynamic process by which Jesus transforms his Church under your care.

Franciscan Fr. Dimitri Sala and team are dedicated to personal and communal prayer, and put their gifts at the service of evangelization. Fr. Dimitri was ordained in 1984, and has been in the preaching ministry since 1986. His team shares the same passion to reach people with the Word of Life.



## **DISTINCTIVES**

1. We are thoroughly convinced by experience, that the "First Proclamation" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 52), untied to any other inducement, changes lives here and hereafter. So we come, not with a program, but with a MESSAGE, and its accompanying POWER. Like St. Paul, we "are not ashamed of the gospel!" (Rom. 1:16)

2. We see ourselves as a resource to YOU as pastor at the helm of your flock, specifically in the area of evangelization.

3. "The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 15). We start with you and your people. As these lives are transformed, you will be eager to reach out to others.

4. Our team has many approaches and materials ready as resources, but have no "program" to sell you as such. We offer, rather, an apostolic RELATIONSHIP: one in which we, who know how to release the power of the First Proclamation, and you, who know your people, seek the Lord together about specific strategies and applicable resources.

5. We will work with you only as long as you choose. There is no obligation to proceed any further than a one-step-at-a-time commitment.



## PROCESS

Phase One. Both experience and theology affirm that for a church to be transformed, its leader must be transformed. You as pastor are worth dedicating personal ministry to! Accordingly, a priest-to-priest relationship will be built between you as leader, and Fr. Dimitri. He will spend one-on-one time with you through a process of...

- "meeting of the minds"  
Here your questions are answered about the theology behind our work, and Fr. Dimitri will listen for the dreams you may have for your church. If you both are "on the same page", together you lay out a plan for...
- "meeting of the hearts"  
Free from the pressure of any expectations from your flock, Fr. Dimitri engages with you as a peer, in mutual heart-to-heart sharing on the realities of the First Proclamation and its "first and fundamental conversion" (*Catechism*

1427) in your own lives. This process will be given as much quality time as necessary. If it is mutually discerned that this conversion is in place, options are explored for...

- "discipling"

Your own growth plan as a disciple is articulated, and you both move on to discerning a plan for...

Phase Two. Any other clergy, decision-makers, and heads of ministries are led through their process of hearing, understanding, and responding to the First Proclamation. If conversion is in place, a discipling plan is articulated for all. Fr. Dimitri's team members may join in this Phase, depending on availability.

Phase Three. Together we and the leadership pray and seek God about a plan from among the evangelization approaches, for evangelizing the parish

Phase Four. Together we execute the plan and continue to listen for God's direction, until all in the parish have had the chance to hear, understand, and respond to the First Proclamation. Discipling options are discerned as people enter into the first and fundamental conversion.

Phase Five. A parish evangelization team is trained, and with parish leaders, discerns how to take the Message to the world outside the parish, fostering the growth of both the Church and the Kingdom.

## MINISTRY NEEDS

- for parishes outside the Chicago region, much of the work can be done through Zoom; when in-person meetings are discerned necessary
  - ❖ travel costs for Fr. Dimitri; only if possible, whatever help toward travel costs when additional team members assist
  - ❖ for any overnight stays, room and board for Fr. Dimitri; only if possible, whatever room and board available when additional team members assist
- optional stipend of your choice for Fr. Dimitri



If you are interested in beginning the process, have any questions, or need other information, please contact Fr. Dimitri directly!

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## **FURTHER RESOURCES BY FR. DIMITRI**

- “The Call to Catholic Evangelism”. (*Emmanuel*, Vol. 102, No. 8, October 1996, pp. 460-466).
- “The Truth About Evangelization” (self-published booklet, 2008).
- *The Stained Glass Curtain: Crossing the Evangelical-Catholic Divide to Find Our Common Heritage*, 2nd printing, chaps. 3-9 (Xulon Press: Maitland FL, 2021).