

"Mission is a duty about which one must say 'Woe to me if I do not evangelize' (1 Corinthians 9:16)...redemption and mission are acts of love [because] those who proclaim the Gospel participate in the charity of Christ."

- Pope Benedict XVI states that evangelization is "Urgent and Necessary," Vatican City, May 18, 2008

"Help each other to live and to grow in the Christian faith so as to be valiant witnesses of the Lord. Be united, but not closed. Be humble, but not fearful. Be simple, but not naive. Be thoughtful, but not complicated. Enter into dialogue with others, but be yourselves."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Genoa, Italy, May 18, 2008

"You have before you the task of seeking new ways to announce Christ in situations of rapid and often profound transformation, and of emphasizing the missionary character of all pastoral activity."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Find New Ways to Announce Christ, Vatican City, February 8, 2008

"One of the promising indications of a renewal in the Church's missionary consciousness in recent decades, has been the growing desire of many lay men and women [...] to cooperate generously in the 'missio ad gentes.' As Vatican Council II stressed, the work of evangelization is a fundamental duty incumbent upon the whole People of God."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City, November 16, 2007

"The proclamation of the Gospel remains the primary service that the Church owes to humanity, to offer the salvation of Christ to the man of our time, who is in many ways humiliated and oppressed, and to orientate in a Christian way cultural, social, and ethical transformations that are unfolding in the world."

- Pope Benedict XVI Links Evangelization and True Peace, Vatican City, October 7, 2007

"The one and only Gospel waits to be proclaimed by everyone together, in love and reciprocal esteem."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City, October 2, 2007

"...The baptized in their sense of mission, through prayer, the witness of life and Christian commitment in all its forms, so that all the faithful may become missionaries in the places where they live and that vocations will come forth to proclaim the Gospel to men who do not yet know it."

- Pope Benedict XVI Supports Lisieux's Mission Year, Vatican City, October 1, 2007

"Our faith is well founded; but it is necessary that this faith become part of our lives. A great effort must therefore be made in order for all Christians to transform themselves into 'witnesses,' ready and able to

shoulder the commitment of testifying - always and to everyone - to the hope that animates them.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, Address to 4th Italian Ecclesial Conference, Verona, Italy October 19, 2006

"The Church is missionary by nature and her principal task is evangelization, which aims to proclaim and to witness to Christ and to promote his Gospel of peace and love in every environment and culture.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, Address at Congress of Military Ordinariates, Vatican City, November 13, 2006

"The rediscovery of the value of one's baptism is the basis of the missionary commitment of every Christian, because we see in the Gospel that he who lets himself be fascinated by Christ cannot do without witnessing the joy of following in his footsteps... we understand even more that, in virtue of baptism, we have an inherent missionary vocation.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus October 29, 2006

"To the extent that we nourish ourselves on Christ and are in love with him, we feel within us the incentive to bring others to him: Indeed, we cannot keep the joy of the faith to ourselves; we must pass it on.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, Papal Address to Rome Diocesan Congress, June 23, 2006

"[Evangelization] is not something optional, but the very vocation of the People of God, a duty that corresponds to it by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ himself”

- Pope Benedict XVI, 40th Anniversary of Vatican II's "Ad Gentes," March 13, 2006

"The proclamation and witness of the Gospel are the first service that Christians can offer every person and the whole human race, as they are called to communicate to all the love of God, who manifested himself fully in the only Redeemer of the world, Jesus Christ.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, 40th Anniversary of Vatican II's "Ad Gentes," March 13, 2006

"The primary contribution that the Church offers to the development of mankind and peoples does not consist merely in material means or technical solutions. Rather, it involves the proclamation of the truth of Christ.”

- Pope Benedict XVI, February 1, 2006

Evangelization is Rooted in a Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ

"The evangelization of the person and of human communities depends totally on this encounter with Jesus Christ."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City, November 13, 2007

"One doesn't begin to be a Christian because of an ethical decision or a great idea, but rather because of an encounter with an event, with a Person, who gives new horizons to life, and with that, a decisive orientation."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Vatican City, November 13, 2007

"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est (1) 2006

"For each one of you, as for the apostles, the encounter with the divine Teacher who calls you friends may be the beginning of an extraordinary venture: that of becoming apostles among your contemporaries to lead them to live their own experience of friendship with God, made Man, with God who has made himself my friend."

- Pope Benedict XVI, UNIV Congress, April 10, 2006

"Our knowledge of Jesus is in need above all of a living experience: Another person's testimony is certainly important, as in general the whole of our Christian life begins with the proclamation that comes to us from one or several witnesses. But we ourselves must be personally involved in an intimate and profound relationship with Jesus."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Rome, October 4, 2006

"The experience of [the African] bishops is that evangelization itself should be foremost, that the God of Jesus Christ must be known, believed in and loved, and that hearts must be converted if progress is to be made on social issues and reconciliation is to begin, and if -- for example -- AIDS is to be combated by realistically facing its deeper causes and the sick are to be given the loving care they need. Social issues and the Gospel are inseparable."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Munich, Germany, September 10, 2006

"The fundamental task of the evangelization of culture is the challenge to make God visible in the human face of Jesus."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Bishops of Ontario, Castel Gondolfo, Italy Sept. 8, 2006

"How many people also in our time are in search of God, in search of Jesus and of his Church, in search of divine mercy, and are waiting for a "sign" that will touch their minds and their hearts! Today, as then, the Evangelist reminds us that the only "sign" is Jesus raised on the cross: Jesus who died and rose is the absolutely sufficient sign. Through him we can understand the truth about life and obtain salvation."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Parish of God the Merciful Father, Rome, March 26, 2006

"Thus, the apostles' adventure began as a gathering of persons who open to one another reciprocally. A direct knowledge of the Teacher began for the disciples. They saw where he lived and began to know him. They would not have to be heralds of an idea, but witnesses of a person. Before being sent to evangelize, they would have to "be" with Jesus (cf. Mark 3:14), establishing a personal relationship with him. With this foundation, evangelization is no more than a proclamation of what has been experienced and an invitation to enter into the mystery of communion with Christ (cf. 1 John 13)."

- Pope Benedict XVI, March 22, 2006