

Lighthouses and Fisherman

By Nethanya Fonseka

To evangelize is to cast nets of faith down into the waters of doubt and uncertainty, with the goal to share the grace and love of God with an unbelieving soul. Although some perceive evangelization to be a laborious and difficult mission, Christ calls His children to spread the Gospel and the love of Christ in a loving, respectful way. To me, evangelizing means sharing with others the peace and salvation that comes from walking with God.

Although people will turn away from God, God never turns away from them. Instead, He invites us to bring those who have turned away from His salvation back to Him with the help of the Holy Spirit. When we evangelize, whether it be by sharing the word of God or bringing friends and family members to Church, we are actively revealing the love and salvation of Christ the Redeemer. Mark 1:17 states, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." All those years ago, Christ called the disciples to be evangelists, and even now, God's mission for us remains the same.

Today, evangelizing comes in many different forms. Christ calls all of His followers to be evangelists, including younger Catholics. Younger Catholics can evangelize in many different situations, especially at school. Sharing from a more personal point of view, I'm a freshman at a public high school, having come from a decade of Catholic schooling prior to that. Although my high school is full of various diverse faiths, I'm finding respectful ways to evangelize and share my faith. I constantly find myself talking with my classmates about the infinite, selfless and divine love of Jesus Christ. I often discuss my faith in depth with my Muslim friends, who are always very receptive to what I have to say. I shared my favorite Biblical passages with them and conveyed my personal experiences with Christ.

Another significant way that youth can evangelize is through social media. Posting scriptures and stories relating to faith and evangelism is also an incredible way for teens to evangelize and spread the Gospel. My mother taught me about evangelism through a helpful metaphor. She compared evangelists to a lighthouse, using the Christ light to call lost ships back to port, and illuminating a course back to God. In order to help lost souls navigate their way back to Christ, we must first have our own unique, intimate relationships with God. One cannot guide a sailor lost at sea if they themselves are unfamiliar with the rolling tides. In a similar way, one must have the same mindset when it comes to evangelizing. A true evangelist is devout in their faith, and has a spirit captained by the Lord. If we hear the call of Christ- and we believe and live like this- we are able to evangelize and interact with the world on a deeper scale.

This being said, not every soul we touch will turn back to God. Thomas Aquinas once said that to those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary, but to those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible. Even so, God's mission for His children is eternal. Cast nets of faith down into the waters of doubt as you sail the ocean of life, and stand as an everlasting lighthouse, called to reveal the path back to salvation.