

# Sacred Heart of Jesus

## October 2017 Newsletter

September has all but slipped past without even being noticed!

Faith Formation began very successfully on September 13 with the high school students meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Both programs are very well attended. We have two new teachers this year. Trina Carr is teaching the Pre-K and Kindergarten class and Sue Passinault is teaching first grade. Both of these classes are quite challenging as children in this age group have limited attention spans. Trina and Sue are doing a great job keeping up with these little wonders.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults began on Sunday, September 24. Class will be held every Sunday after the 10:00 AM Mass. Joe Wallace is leading the group. If you are interested in attending, please contact our parish office at 387-4900.

### **The New Evangelization – What is it?**

I found the following information at [focuscampus.org](http://focuscampus.org) – the article answered a lot of my questions and I hope it will for you, too.

“The term “The New Evangelization” is thrown around in many Catholics circles today, but what exactly does it mean?

It is believed that Blessed John Paul II first used the term in 1983 in an address to Latin American Bishops. He would later bring this term to the attention of the entire Church. Perhaps, the most clear definition of the New Evangelization is in his encyclical, *Redemptoris Missio*. In section 33 of this encyclical, Blessed John Paul II describes three different situations for evangelization: mission *ad gentes*, Christian communities, and the new evangelization.

*Mission ad gentes*: Latin for “to the nations.” This is a situation where “Christ and his Gospel are not known.”

*Christian communities*: “In these communities the Church carries out her activity and pastoral care.” This is the ongoing evangelization of those “fervent in the faith.”

***New Evangelization*: So, what is the new evangelization? Blessed John Paul II describes a situation between the first two options “where entire groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life far removed from Christ and his Gospel. In this case what is needed is a ‘new evangelization’ or a ‘re-evangelization.’”**

The new evangelization pertains to a very specific group of people: fallen-away Christians. For most Catholics in the western world, we see the need for this type of evangelization all around us. Everyone knows someone who was once baptized but who no longer practices the faith. Blessed John Paul II wanted the faithful to clearly recognize this problem and then try to solve it.

FOCUS (The Fellowship of Catholic University Students) aims to answer the John Paul II's call for the new evangelization. On college campuses across the nation, college students are falling away from their faith. Statistics show that just 15% of Catholics aged 18-25 attend Church on a weekly basis. FOCUS lives out the new evangelization on the college campus because of this critical age demographic.

Pope Emeritus has continued the mission of the new evangelization in his pontificate. In 2010, Pope Emeritus Benedict established The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization. In 2012, there was Bishops' Synod to discuss the New Evangelization. We should be hearing much more about this topic in the years to come. Below are some key quotes on the New Evangelization by Blessed John Paul II and Pope Emeritus Benedict. For more, check out the full documents of the resources quoted below.

"I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization and to the mission ad gentes. No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples" (Bl. John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, no. 3).

"To this end, it is more necessary than ever for all the faithful to move from a faith of habit, sustained perhaps by social context alone, to a faith which is conscious and personally lived. The renewal of faith will always be the best way to lead others to the Truth that is Christ" (Bl. John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, no. 73).

"Look to the future with commitment to a New Evangelization, one that is new in its ardor, new in its methods, and new in its expression" (Bl. John Paul II, *Address to the Latin American Bishops*).

"The new evangelization in which the whole continent is engaged means that faith cannot be taken for granted, but must be explicitly proposed in all its breadth and richness" (Bl. John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, no. 69).

"Our own time, then, must be increasingly marked by new hearing of God's word and a new evangelization. Recovering the centrality of the divine word in the Christian life leads us to appreciate anew the deepest meaning of the forceful appeal of Pope John Paul II: to pursue the mission ad gentes and vigorously to embark upon the new evangelization, especially in those nations where the Gospel has been forgotten or meets with indifference as a result of widespread secularism" (Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini* no. 122)."

