

“The New Evangelisation” 2003 Pope Benedict XVI. A Summary by Msgr Pat Lynch

Introduction:

In his introduction to this letter he majors on the theme of “life”. The word “life is mentioned 12 in the introduction alone.

Structure For Evangelisation:

The Church has always evangelised through – sacraments- justice – charity- these elements give “Life”. She now needs a New Evangelisation so that people can hear. There is a temptation to be IMPATIENT- we will tend to look for large numbers – this is a SUCCESS mentality. Grain of mustard seed is structure it falls – it dies – then new “Life”.

Method:

- Be heard in a “reasonable way”
- Do not project yourselves.
- Speak in Christ’s name – but be Trinitarian.
- FATHER- CHRISTOLOGY- PNEUMATOLOGY- ECCLESIOLOGY. (This means from the Trinity – Church – Community)
- Need to study and be educated.
- Like Jesus act by day pray by night.
- Suffering is part of the package.
- Self-emptying even unto death.
- Have empathy with people especially as they suffer.

Content of Evangelisation.

Conversion:

- Personal conversion.
- New life style.

- New social action.
- New Communities of “Life”.

Kingdom of God:

- Kingdom to be reflected in our lifestyle.
- Show that God is not “other worldish” but alive.
- Use liturgy as an esoteric means of communicating with God.

Christ Jesus:

- Be absorbed in Christ.
- Reflect Christ.

Eternal Life:

- Do not leave judgement or after life out of our proclamation
- We will be judged.
- Our lifestyle is the Beatitudes and it is on these that we will be assessed.