

EVANGELIZATION STYLES SURVEY

To freely share your faith, it is helpful to recognize the different styles of evangelization and consider which method most reflects your personal style. Below is an exercise to assist in determining your evangelization style. (From *Evangelization Teams in the Making: A Catholic Parish Manual*, 2000. Adapted from Mittleberg, et al, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, 1995.)

INSTRUCTIONS

Rate each of these 36 statements depending on how you think the statement fits.

3 – Fits me well

2 – Half & half

1 – Just a little

0 – Not me at all

- ___ 1. One of my favorite things is long talks with friends.
- ___ 2. When I visit book stores, I find it difficult to leave without numerous books that will help me to understand current issues being discussed in our society.
- ___ 3. When making a point in conversation, I often tell stories about myself to bring out a living illustration.
- ___ 4. I think of myself most definitely as a person who places high value on personal friendships.
- ___ 5. I am happiest when I am able to include new people in activities I am involved in.
- ___ 6. Many people overlook needs in people's lives that I feel I am able to perceive and help them with.
- ___ 7. I often identify with people by stating, "I tend to think like that too" or "I used to feel that way."
- ___ 8. I have discovered that when I relate to people how I came to Christ, they are extremely interested.
- ___ 9. I am not afraid to put people in the spotlight when it seems appropriate.
- ___ 10. I am often admired for my ability to develop new friendships easily.
- ___ 11. When asked to explain Christianity to friends, I tend to be more comfortable asking someone else who is more learned to explain things.
- ___ 12. In helping others, I find great fulfillment. However, I am most comfortable when I do this quietly, without fanfare.
- ___ 13. I strongly feel that confronting friends with the truth can be more important than hurting their feelings in the process.
- ___ 14. When spiritual progress is at stake in a person, I generally focus on the things that are slowing this process down.
- ___ 15. I am very direct in most conversations. I say what I think about topics without waltzing around or small talk.

- ___ 16. I am more comfortable with personal life situations than complicated theological ideas.
- ___ 17. I would really make an effort to bring my friends to a special event that I felt they would enjoy, if it was worthy.
- ___ 18. I definitely am more comfortable showing my affection through what I do versus what I say.
- ___ 19. Real love sometimes means telling someone the truth, even if the truth is hurtful.
- ___ 20. Personally, I usually enjoy discussions and debates on difficult questions.
- ___ 21. When I need to, I have no problem sharing my mistakes to help others solve their problems and find solutions.
- ___ 22. I generally prefer to become involved in discussions of a person's personal life, before the issue of beliefs is raised.
- ___ 23. When I can, I bring people to spiritually uplifting events (such as healing services, retreats, opportunities for service).
- ___ 24. My quiet demonstration of Christian love has often opened up people who are spiritually closed.
- ___ 25. When I think of my style, I often think that "Make a difference or make a mess" fits me well.
- ___ 26. I tend to be impatient with people who use poor logic or draw questionable conclusions.
- ___ 27. I am always surprised at how interested people are in various events in my life.
- ___ 28. I am a person who tends to analyze.
- ___ 29. When I browse through book stores or even examine my own library, I always keep in mind friends and acquaintances and their interests and needs.
- ___ 30. When presented with a choice, I generally prefer to physically assist people in the name of Christ versus becoming involved in religious discussions.
- ___ 31. One of my worst areas is not showing gentleness and regard in the way I interact with others.
- ___ 32. I find I very much enjoy getting to the bottom of people's opinions and beliefs.
- ___ 33. My amazement grows each day that God brought me to faith and I am compelled to tell others about it.
- ___ 34. I have a reputation for being a loving, considerate and interactive person.
- ___ 35. If I were able to take someone to a Church event, it would "make my day."
- ___ 36. My personality is usually more "hands on" or action oriented versus idea or theoretically inclined.

Please transfer your responses to each statement to the grid on the next page and total each column.

EVANGELIZATION STYLES

| Servant | Invitational | Relational | Witness | Intellectual | Challenging |
|---------------|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| #6 | #5 | #1 | #3 | #2 | #9 |
| #12 | #11 | #4 | #7 | #14 | #13 |
| #18 | #17 | #10 | #8 | #20 | #15 |
| #24 | #23 | #16 | #21 | #26 | #19 |
| #30 | #29 | #22 | #27 | #28 | #25 |
| #36 | #35 | #34 | #33 | #32 | #31 |
| Totals | | | | | |

The highest total indicates your personal evangelization style(s).

Servant
Invitational
Relational
Witness
Intellectual
Challenging

Explanation of Evangelization Styles

Below are six styles of evangelization, with the strengths and areas of needed awareness for each and a scriptural portrait for illustration. Recognizing and considering which method most reflects your personal style may help you to freely share your faith with others.

Servant Style

Scriptural Portrait: Jesus in John 13 “Washing of the Feet”

“Your light must shine before all, that they may see the good that you do and give glory to God.” (Mt. 5:16)

Strengths: This style of evangelization is characterized by qualities of patience and selflessness. Servant evangelization is others-centered, and finds joy where love is put into action. Servant evangelists value even menial tasks, done with love.

Needed Awareness: Servant evangelists must balance their actions with words, that others may recognize that the motivation for their service is Christ. Faithful service is always offered for the other—servants must be cautious not to impose their service on another.

“People may doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do.”

Invitational Style

Scriptural Portrait: Jesus in John 4 “The Woman at the Well”

“Go out into the highways and the hedgerows and bring them in. I want my house full for the feast.” (Lk. 14:23)

Strengths: This style of evangelization is characterized by qualities of hospitality and commitment. Invitational evangelists are persuasive, enjoy new people and easily reach out to others. Invitational evangelists do not let their own feelings of inadequacy at proclaiming Christ stop them from inviting others to hear the gospel proclaimed.

Needed Awareness: It is important to discern what functions are appropriate for different persons and to invite accordingly. With this style of evangelization, one can easily get discouraged if invitations are turned down. Don’t let that stop you!

“Master, where do you live?” “Come and see.”

Relational Style

Scriptural Portrait: Levi in Luke 5:27-32 – Levi throws a party for Jesus.

“To the weak I became a weak person with a view to winning the weak. I have made myself all things to all men in order to save at least some of them.” (1 Cor. 9:22)

Strengths: This style of evangelization is characterized by qualities of compassion, sensitivity, and friendliness. Relational evangelists are friendship oriented, focus on people and their needs, and are good conversationalists.

Needed Awareness: Relational evangelists must beware of valuing friendship over truth. They sometimes experience a sense of betrayal when the friendships they make do not lead to Christ. Relational evangelists can become overwhelmed with the needs of others.

“Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ.”

Witness Style

Scriptural Portrait: The man born blind in John 9

“What we have seen and heard, we proclaim in turn to you so that you may share life with us.” (Jn. 1:3)

Strengths: This style of evangelization is characterized by personal experience as a basis for sharing faith. Witness evangelists are good listeners who feel connected to the experiences of others. Their story continues to touch their own life as well as the lives of others.

Needed Awareness: In witnessing, it is important to relate your story to those to whom you are speaking. It is easy to lose perspective of the multitude of ways in which God works, to presume “if it didn’t happen to me, it’s not valid.” Witness evangelists must keep in mind that the ordinary is extraordinary.

“I may not know everything about Jesus, but I know the man!”

Intellectual Style

Scriptural Portrait: Paul in Acts 17 debating with philosophers.

“We demolish sophistries and every proud pretension that raises itself against the knowledge of God.” (2 Cor. 10:5)

Strengths: This style of evangelization is characterized by logical and analytical thinking. Intellectual evangelists are inquisitive and often like to debate. They are concerned about what people think over what they feel.

Needed Awareness: Intellectual evangelists must avoid getting “stuck” on particular arguments and missing the gospel message. A balance between information and an open attitude must be cultivated. This style is not apologetics, which defends the Church, but an intellectual assent to faith. (1 Peter 3:15) “In your heart set apart Christ as Lord.”

“Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.” (Rom. 12:2)

Challenging Style

Scriptural Portrait: Peter in Acts 2 after the Holy Spirit descends.

“I charge you to preach the word, to stay with this task whether convenient or inconvenient—correcting, reproving, appealing, constantly teaching and never losing patience.” (2 Tim. 4:2)

Strengths: This style of evangelization is characterized by strong convictions. Challenging evangelists are confident, bold, and direct.

Needed Awareness: Challenging evangelists must be sensitive to the Spirit at work in a person’s life. Judgment and condemnation must be avoided. The call here is to “speak the truth in love.” Seek God’s wisdom and direction.

People must often be challenged to change in order to hear the message of salvation.