WE WERE MADE
“FOR A TIME
SUCH AS THIS”
ESTHER 4:14
Seizing the Moment with Boldness

A message to you from our bishop

The pandemic has painfully yet powerfully clarified our radical, human need for relationship. As people created in the image and likeness of God, we are wired for deep communion with God and each other, most profoundly in the spiritual family of the Church. Despite our technological sophistication and communication possibilities, more people feel lonely and disconnected in our culture than ever before.

The love of Jesus Christ is the only power that can heal and satisfy the desires and the wounds of the human heart! The saving grace that flows to us from the death and resurrection of Christ is the central message of good news that constitutes the truth of the gospel. This time is our moment to evangelize with greater fervor, confidence, organization, and love. People are literally dying of loneliness because they do not truly know that God loves them, Jesus wants to live within them, and the Church is the source of sacramental grace to fill us with the Holy Spirit.

The first followers of Christ evangelized with great boldness and joy because they had personally experienced the resurrection of Christ! They loved with a self-emptying generosity that won many hearts to the truth and goodness of the Gospel. They were willing to lay down their lives, even to the point of suffering terrible tortures and death, rather than give up their faith. We pray for the strength and passion of the martyrs to course in our veins, that we may go forth and proclaim Jesus to the world!

“Seizing the Moment with Boldness”

A Gallup poll tells us that around 20% of self-identifying Catholics regularly attend Mass on Sundays. This low percentage usually induces hand-wringing. What is to become of our beloved Catholic faith in the wake of such low engagement?

Maybe our perspective is wrong.

Maybe we should celebrate this. Despite all the cultural and technological shifts of the past fifty years, the Lord continues to draw us in, continues to have a plan for us, and continues to call us to more than we think we are capable of. The Lord has much in store for us and you know this.

You also know that the 20% longs for more from the Church.

You know that the 20% sees the pain in so much of the world. You know that the 20% wants to share Jesus, his healing and his love, with neighbors, friends, co-workers, and most especially with family. You also know that many of them do not have the tools to share Jesus effectively.

You have felt an urgency to provide these tools, and you have been generous.

Because of you and your partnership in this work, we will train 3,000 of the 20% this year to reach over 10,000 people with the good news through their personal apostolates in the world.

Most of them will lead small groups and others will evangelize people in more ordinary ways.

But they will be eternally fruitful if they remain connected to Jesus (John 15:5). They will change the world. The gates of hell will not prevail against the power of their unleashed Baptism.

The time to send the 20% into the world as zealous disciple makers of Jesus is now. Thank you for sharing our hope for this historic moment in the Church and the world.

In Jesus,

Jason Simon
President, The Evangelical Catholic

Lisa Zasada
President, Board of Directors

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Now is the Time for Disciple Makers

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Photo credit: Kyle Telechan / Chicago Post-Tribune

Lisa Zasada
President, Board of Directors

Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison

+Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison
Paving the Way for Bilingual Communities

You’re empowering multicultural lay leaders who have often been ignored.

You have changed the way we are able to serve our Spanish-speaking communities. With your support, the Reach More Mission Training content—both written and video—was translated into Spanish. You opened the door for us to reach out to more communities across the country and accommodate their unique situations.

Because of you, we are also excited to introduce our new full-time Reach More consultant, Mari Pablo, to coach our ministry partners who are bilingual or exclusively Spanish-speaking. A Miami native, Mari has been ministering to Catholic youth for over fifteen years. As a talented public speaker, Mari has traveled across the United States and Latin America independently and for the Steubenville Youth Conferences to reach young people in the Church. She has worked closely with Ascension Press in numerous projects, including The 99, Connected, YOU, and as a presenter for Ascension Presents.

Flourishing in a Time of Uncertainty

Your help is making it easier for us to equip lay leaders in the Church.

It’s a time when many organizations and businesses are reeling from the continued pressures of the pandemic. Your financial gifts and spiritual offerings have not only kept us afloat, but have allowed us to pour generously into improving what we can provide our current and potential partners.

Your generosity has allowed us to upgrade Reach More, our online mission training platform, with completely revised written content, high-quality video formation, and improved accompanying materials. The new Reach More greatly improves our ability to serve our partner ministries, providing updated advice and tools to staff and thoughtful pedagogy to parishioners to engage and equip them for mission.

Thanks to you, we have also been able to launch three new discipleship steps—Guide Your Kids, Come to the Altar, and Seek Forgiveness—in the Nextstep Family Pathway.

Your giving also supports a new service level—Reach More Community—that allows ministries an accessible and cost-effective way to utilize Reach More Mission Training in a virtual group coaching setting.

Reach More was already well crafted, yet The Evangelical Catholic found a way to re-envision their training content. It’s more targeted and clearly defines what we as leaders (and clergy) can do to bring life to the mission of evangelization. Thank you Evangelical Catholic!

~ Dcn. Tom Elsesser
Holy Name of Jesus Parish
Niceville, FL

For the past few years I have had a desire in my heart to reach out to my own Hispanic community. I feel so blessed to work with these parishes and simply be an instrument to help others encounter the Lord in our own language and culture.

~Mari Pablo
A New Dawn for Mission

You are building up communities, one relationship at a time.

Many people in our partners’ communities are still feeling the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been blessed to see a continual growth in ministries who want to partner with us, and we recognize the opportunity to emphasize forming the deep individual relationships people need. With your support, trained lay leaders across the country are forging lasting connections with others by seeking Jesus together.

49%
The increase in the amount of people meeting one-on-one since Fall of 2019

We are Made to Change Lives

1,549
Trained lay leaders from current ministry partnerships

4,665
Individuals currently experiencing a small group

943
Individuals receiving one-on-one formation

7
Average size of an evangelization small group

88%
People reported improving how they live their faith after participating in a small group

81%
People said small group helped them develop stronger Christian friendships

95%
People said small group helped them develop a more enriched prayer time

Ministry partners over the years.


13 19 36 63 111 113 132 150
When Thinking Small Makes a Profound Impact

Thanks to you, people across the country are reaching the disconnected.

Among our 150 current partnerships, many of our partners are wondering if their daily operations will ever return to the pre-pandemic “normal.” But because of your giving, the way our partners are seeing “normal” is rapidly changing. No longer is it a failure when large gatherings and ministry-wide events can’t continue in the same way.

Your support has allowed our ministry partners and their lay leaders to see this new landscape as an invitation to think small and pour more deeply into the lives of people close to them.

Michaela Moreau, Steward for The Evangelical Catholic, Small Groups, and Bible Studies at Saint Michael Parish in Olympia, WA, has seen this change in her lay leaders firsthand.

One lay leader shared how her own personal transformation allowed the Holy Spirit to reach another:

**Evangelization. That word! Conjures images of knocking on doors, handing out pamphlets, asking strangers if they have accepted Jesus as their personal savior. The word doesn’t leave me rejoicing. In all honesty, it sometimes scares me.**

The training group taught me that my own images of evangelization were so distorted.

The [Evangelical Catholic] training group taught me that my images of evangelization were so distorted. Evangelization begins with my own close connection with Christ.

And it’s not about knocking on the doors of strangers or handing out pamphlets. It’s about looking to the people already in your life and praying about who God is leading you to form a trusting relationship with.

Thinking about these things, my neighbor came to mind. I didn’t know her except for a ten-minute conversation through a car window several years ago. But I had heard her husband was in the hospital, and I knew she struggled with being comfortable outside her home. So, I started to pray for her and asked God to show me how to reach out to her.

Within a few days, I was walking down the road to her house, bearing cookies and a note with my contact info. I saw her through the window and knocked, but she didn’t come to the door. As I was leaving, she suddenly appeared from around the back of the house. We had a pleasant conversation for a few minutes and by the end of the conversation she shared a few needs and we had exchanged phone numbers. I was surprised by this success!

I continued to pray for her and a few days later I offered to get her groceries. But she decided to come with me! She was nervous in the car and in the store, but texted me several times throughout the trip for reassurance. I was kind of dumbfounded how she trusted me so much when I, too, was a virtual stranger. During the drive home she shared her life story. Shocking.

A few days later, she called me unprompted. She opened her heart to me about her struggle with loneliness and anxiety, and brought up the topic of faith. We had a rich, yet short, conversation and within minutes she had an action plan to tackle her struggles.

It’s all in God’s design. He planted the seed in my heart and removed the barrier.

This series of encounters occurred over just two weeks. They’ve been astounding to me; definitely not my normal. It’s all because I was taught to pray first. It’s all in God’s design. He planted the seed in my heart and removed the barrier. He worked within the parameters of my life to make a deeply profound impact on this woman. I definitely couldn’t have done this on my own.

When Thinking Small Makes a Profound Impact
Jeff Hedglen, Campus Minister for the University of Texas-Arlington, shared how partnering with The Evangelical Catholic was essential in getting their campus ministry through challenging times. “Partnering with the EC gave us the ability to weather the pandemic. They reminded us that Christ is holding everything together and drawing everything forward. It’s all about helping college students connect with each other by seeking Christ first.”

The campus community at UT-A is now back to the same levels of student activity as before the pandemic. Jeff is also seeing an unprecedented amount of new students joining the community through small groups. “Three out of every four students is a person I’ve never seen before. That means that we’re reaching those we don’t normally see at Mass or at the student center.”

Your investment in these campus communities is making all the difference. Students that are on-fire for Jesus are seizing their opportunity to bring the good news to others in this unique time of evangelization.

A Generation Built in Christ

Your generosity is shaping the next generation of disciples.
YOU ARE MAKING AN IMPACT
FINANCIALS

$2,599,546
TOTAL REVENUE

Benefactor Contributions 77%
Other Income 1%
Ministry Income 22%

$2,387,188
TOTAL EXPENSES

Evangelization: Consulting & Resources 71%
Stewardship & Expansion 9%
Operations & Management 20%

Interested in more? Visit evangelicalcatholic.org or scan the QR code to hear our story, meet our team, and learn about changed lives.
REACH MORE™ MOVEMENTS

ALASKA
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Anchorage, AK

ARKANSAS
University of Central Arkansas Jonesboro, AR

ARIZONA
Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, AZ
St. Mary Magdalene Gilbert, AZ

CALIFORNIA
Humboldt State University Arcata, CA
Catholic Communities of Brawley & Westmorland Brawley, CA
Our Lady of Guadalupe & St. Mary El Centro, CA
Ascension San Diego, CA
St. Brigid San Diego, CA
St. Gregory the Great San Diego, CA
St. Therese of Carmel San Diego, CA
St. Vincent de Paul San Diego, CA
Santa Sophia Spring Valley, CA

FLORIDA
University of Florida Gainesville, FL
Florida Institute of Technology Melbourne, FL
Holy Name of Jesus Niceville, FL
University of West Florida Pensacola, FL

INDIANA
St. Louis de Montfort Fishers, IN
Butler University Indianapolis, IN
Louisiana McNesse State University Lake Charles, LA
Our Lady of Guadalupe Lake Charles, LA
St. Margaret of Scotland Lake Charles, LA

MASSACHUSETTS
St. Matthew the Evangelist Billerica, MA

MARYLAND
Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, MD

MICHIGAN
Michigan State University East Lansing, MI
St. Thomas Aquinas East Lansing, MI
Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI

MISSISSIPPI
Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle Jackson, MS
St. Jude Pearl, MS

NORTH CAROLINA
Appalachian State University Boone, NC
Charlotte Area Catholic Campus Ministry Charlotte, NC
Duke University Durham, NC
Elon University Elon, NC
High Point University High Point, NC
St. Mark Huntersville, NC
St. Luke the Evangelist Raleigh, NC

NEW JERSEY
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception & Sacred Heart Camden, NJ
St. Lawrence the Martyr Chester, NJ
Our Lady of the Lake Sparta, NJ

NEW YORK
Syracuse University Syracuse, NY
OHIO
St. Joseph Avon Lake, OH
St. Mary Hudson, OH
St. Mary of the Falls Olmsted Falls, OH
St. Peter North Ridgeville, OH

OKLAHOMA
St. John the Baptist Edmond, OK
St. Francis Xavier & St. Gregory the Great Enid, OK

PENNSYLVANIA
St. Matthias Bala Cynwyd, PA
Queen of the Universe Levittown, PA
Elon University Elon, NC
High Point University High Point, NC
St. Mark Huntersville, NC
Slippery Rock University Slippery Rock, PA

SOUTH CAROLINA
St. Peter Beaufort, SC
The Citadel Military College Charleston, SC
College of Charleston Charleston, SC
Coastal Carolina University Conway, SC
TENNESSEE
Our Lady of Angels Allen, TN
University of Texas - Arlington Arlington, TX
St. Thomas More Austin, TX

TEXAS
Our Lady of Guadalupe San Antonio, TX
Our Lady of Guadalupe University San Antonio, TX

VIRGINIA
St. Louis Alexandria, VA
Good Shepherd Alexandria, VA
Farnamville Catholic Campus Ministry Farnamville, VA
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Lake Ridge, VA

WASHINGTON
Church of the Assumption Bellingham, WA
St. Michael Olympia, WA

WISCONSIN
All Saints Berlin, WI
St. Dominic Brookfield, WI
St. Francis Borga Cedarburg, WI
St. Stephen Clinton, WI
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay Green Bay, WI
St. Mary Hales Corners, WI
St. Charles Hartland, WI
St. Joseph Hayward, WI
St. Gabriel Hubertus, WI
St. Patrick Hudson, WI
Kaukauna Catholic Parishes Kaukauna, WI
Blessed Sacrament Madison, WI
Diocese of Madison Madison, WI

WISCONSIN
St. Dennis Madison, WI
St. Monica & St. Eugene Madison, WI
St. Olaf & St. Joseph Madison, WI
St. Peter Madison, WI
St. Raphael Cathedral Madison, WI
St. Thomas Aquinas Madison, WI
St. John the Baptist Marshfield, WI
St. Bernard Middleton, WI
St. Christopher Verona, WI
St. Gabriel West Bend, WI
St. Cecilia Wisconsin Dells, WI

WASHINGTON, DC
Archdiocese of Military Services

INTERNATIONAL
GERMANY
Rose Barracks Vilseck, Germany
Spangdahlem Air Base Spangdahlem, Germany

NEW ZEALAND
University of Canterbury Christchurch, New Zealand

THE EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC
2021 ANNUAL REPORT