

New Evangelization

Rev. Deljo Puthur, CMI, once said that you use “your words to preach the Gospel but you use your life to proclaim it.” The idea of evangelization is to bring Christ to those who do not know Him. The main form of evangelization is in missionary work. A missionary is someone who goes somewhere that was not originally their home to convert people to their faith. Pope Saint John Paul II began the call for the New Evangelization in the year 2000 with the apostolic letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. The New Evangelization is a call for all people to have a “personal and profound meeting with the savior,” so with that relationship and faith they are able to be missionaries (“The Mission of Christ the Redeemer,” “*Redemptoris Missio*”). There are three main parts to the New Evangelization— the first is to deepen our faith, the second is believe in the Gospel, and the third is go forth and proclaim the Gospel message.

Earning this badge works just like earning any other Behold Christ Club patch. There are ten activities that members can complete to earn badges. How many and which activities each club member must complete is up to the discretion of the parent and/or club leader. Unlike past badges, this badge is organized by the three parts of the New Evangelization. Like with other badges easier tasks are listed first and harder activities will be listed last. Leaders and parents may feel free to modify some of the activities, especially section three—“Go Forth and Proclaim the Gospel.”

- I. **Deepen our faith.** Focuses on creating a relationship with the Lord. In order to bring the Faith to others, we must have that relationship ourselves and be continually working on it.

___ **1. Say the “Come Holy Spirit” prayer.** *Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations through Christ our Lord. Amen.* **Create a Small poster or plaque** with this prayer on it to hang either in your room or somewhere in your house where you will see it every day. This plaque is a reminder to you that God is going to work in your life everyday if you allow him too.

___ **2. Create/Decorate a prayer journal.** It is important to have a place where you can write out your thoughts to God. God wants to be a part of our everyday life. Having a place where we can write it all out – whether it was a good day or a hard day—reminds us how our lives should center on God. The journal will also give you a place for reflection of the Scriptures and saint books. Psalm 119:105 says, “Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” We need God’s word to help guide us to Him and a place where we can sit with the different verses and reflect on them for several days or weeks.

___ **3. Spend time in adoration/prayer.** Being able to spend time with God—especially in the presence of the Eucharist—allows us to set aside the craziness of life and be with our Lord and Savior. Find time during your week where you can spend an hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. If you are unable to go to a nearby church, you can still make time in your week for prayer. Spending time with God is an important way to deepen your faith.

II. **Believe in the gospel message.** You have begun to deepen your faith. Now it is a time grow in knowledge of your faith and in belief of your faith.

___ **1. Read Acts 2:1.** Read about what gave the Apostles the strength to go spread the Gospel to others. **Interview** someone about their first time they encountered someone who was not Catholic and asked them about their faith and gave them the opportunity to spread their faith. Either **present** or **discuss** the interviews with your family or Behold Christ Club. **Include questions:** How old were you? What was the situation? What type of questions were you asked? What type of answers did you give?

___ **2. Have a retreat day.** As either a family or as club, find one Saturday where you can have a mini retreat. Both parents and children should come and it should be a day where you can “Encourage another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). With the hectic lives that we lead, it is easy to become run down—especially in our faith; a day to step away and focus on our faith is a great way to rejuvenate it. Begin the day with Mass if you are able to. Intertwine the rest of day with prayer and fun activities. End the day with everyone sitting down to a meal together.

- i. **For families you can do this this at home** – go to daily Mass at a local parish if you are able to and then spend the rest of the day together.
- ii. **For a Behold Christ Club you can see if you can use a parish hall or a parish school gym** depending on the size of the group. You can also meet at someone’s house if it’s a small enough group.

___ **3. What does Believe mean to you?** In the early centuries of the Catholic Church something called the Arian heresy caused a great deal of trouble and even caused some division in the Church because it was saying that Jesus, as the Son of God, was not truly divine. In order to end the confusion on this, The Pope called the Council of Nicene in 325 and from this the Nicene Creed was written. The Creed gave all Catholics a firm belief statement based on Church doctrine. This beautiful prayer, the Nicene Creed, is what you will be spending time with over the next few days. To begin, you will take the first part of the prayer and pair it with a physical activity. For example, I am going to run a mile in my neighborhood. When I start running, I will say the first paragraph of the Nicene Creed; “We believe in One God, the Father, the maker of heaven and earth, and all that is seen and unseen.” Once you have said this, begin to reflect on the words. The first line is “We believe.” Ask yourself, “Why do I believe?” Think about belief for a while. Then move on to “One God.” Do you believe in One God? Do this with each section. Spend a couple of days on each section. Increase your physical activity to as you go from one section of the creed to the next as a reminder of Christ suffering on the cross for your sins so that one day you might believe. This website is an excellent place to print the Nicene Creed out from:

<http://catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=495>

- III. **Go forth to proclaim the Gospel message-** Proclaiming the Gospel to those who do not understand or do not wish to hear the word of the Lord can be hard. By letting the love of Christ spread through your smallest actions can be the start of the journey of how Christ wants to use you to lead others to him. Be willing to be challenged during this journey –otherwise you will have a hard time be open to the will of

God. Finally, by being open do not limit yourself to the items listed below. They are just suggestions; we want you to find ways to proclaim the Gospel in your area.

___ **1. Invite a friend to Mass.** Even if that friend says no, you have planted a seed in them of God and of his existence. God knows what is to come in their lives and will use that seed if the person will let Him.

___ **2. Make rosaries** and pass them out after Mass along with a pamphlet on how to say the rosary (this can also be done with Divine Mercy Chaplet beads and pamphlet). This is another growing opportunity for those who leave their faith at the church door.

___ **3. Host and organize a religious concert for youth in your parish.** Invite your parish priest or a priest that is close to your Behold Christ group to come give a youth talk along with the concert.

___ **4. Pray outside of your local abortion clinic.**

___ **5. Babysit for single mothers for free.**

___ **6. Have a food drive for your local soup kitchen and then bring the food to the kitchen and volunteer for the day.**