



School of Evangelization

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

310 PROSPECT PARK WEST ♦ BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215

TELEPHONE 718.281.9544 ♦ FAX 718.788.4877

THE JOY OF ENCOUNTERING CHRIST—THE FAMILY'S HOPE **2015-2018**

**An Evangelization and Renewal Springboard for
Parishes, Families, and Individuals in the Diocese of Brooklyn**

INTRODUCTION

Since the heart of evangelization is to introduce others to the saving presence and power of the Lord Jesus, any pastoral vision that seeks to explain in greater detail the work of evangelization must begin with an opportunity for personal reflection. If we seek to revitalize our Church, to bring new life to our mission to teach and preach the Gospel, and bring others to greater faith, then we must ask some serious questions of ourselves. What does it really mean to me to seek new life and vigor in Christ? What is really being asked of me? What attitudes must I change in my life before I can become an effective agent of evangelization in my family, parish, and neighborhood?

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.

PART ONE

Part One of the *Springboard* addresses two general ways of encountering Christ leading to a personal relationship with Him and His Church.

Pope Francis reminds us that, "To speak of Jesus, we must know him and love him." Turning that ideal into practical application, *The Joy of Encountering Christ—The Family's Hope* will provide parishes, families, and individuals in Brooklyn and Queens with opportunities to encounter Christ, either initially or once again, and grow in knowledge of and love for Christ and His Church.

TO KNOW JESUS

With the recent foundation of the School of Evangelization by Bishop DiMarzio in the Diocese of Brooklyn, **WE WANT TO HELP PEOPLE LEARN ABOUT JESUS MORE FULLY.** Partnering with *My Catholic Faith Delivered*, *Catholic Distance University*, and the *Notre Dame STEP Program*, the diocese provides a wide variety of live and online Catholic adult religious courses for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. In addition to diocesan offerings, clergy, women and men in consecrated life, and lay

catechetical leaders in parishes and schools/academies in Brooklyn and Queens teach about the Catholic Faith in many and varied ways.

TO LOVE JESUS

WE ALSO WANT TO HELP PEOPLE EXPERIENCE JESUS MORE DEEPLY.

The Mass, celebration of the Sacraments, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, novenas and processions, and small prayer and Scripture study groups help us joyfully experience the love of Jesus. While some people are seeking an initial encounter with Christ, others have already met Christ at some point in their lives but have not stayed in touch with Him. Others are regular Church-goers, but have not committed to more than that, while others have made it a practice to remain involved in the life of the parish and reach out to others as true evangelizers.

PART TWO

Part Two of the *Springboard* outlines the main components of our pastoral vision.

There are three themes of this *Springboard*:

1. Encountering Christ
 2. Becoming missionary disciples
 3. Experiencing the joy of sharing the Gospel
-

There are six goals to be achieved:

1. Offer multiple opportunities for people to encounter Christ
 2. Increase Mass attendance: full, active, conscious participation
 3. Increase daily prayer among all Catholics
 4. Attract and support inactive Catholics
 5. Enhance participation in parish life/religious education at all levels of faith formation
 6. Invite and welcome seekers
-

Through the lens of the New Evangelization, we help others to:

1. Encounter Christ everyday
 2. Grow as missionary disciples
 3. Put out into the deep through new ways of inviting and reaching out
-

We accomplish this by:

1. Providing various methods to meet the risen Christ
2. Developing Parish Evangelization Teams
3. Providing specialized training and formation for clergy and parish leadership, catechists, and parishioners
4. Forming small groups
5. Doing whatever we can to draw people to the Mass and the Sacraments
6. Enhancing all programs of faith formation and education

PART THREE

Part Three of the *Springboard* provides mutual responsibilities among parishes, families, individuals, and the Diocesan School of Evangelization.

A. Form teams in parishes to facilitate the plan:

- invite and involve adults already formed in ministry
- invite and involve adults who want to get involved in ministry
 1. orient them to the Program
 2. train them in:
 - a. forming and sustaining small group processes
 - b. developing forms of invitation and communication
- develop diocesan wide invitation processes
 1. using media
 2. *Neighbors Reaching Neighbors*

B. Assist Involved/Somewhat involved Catholics:

Use parish ministers already trained and prepared in order to:

- develop a diocesan mandate for renewal programs
- present and form teams for these programs:
 - *Living the Eucharist, Symbolon, My Catholic Faith Delivered, Adult Faith Formation, Jesuit Collaborative*
- develop parish small groups
- create family activities and designate support groups
 - family discipleship-the domestic Church

C. Assist Inactive Catholics:

Use parish ministers already trained and prepared in order to:

- offer *Awakening Faith* series
- follow-up with participants for ongoing group discussion, formation

D. Assist Seekers:

Begin with the following:

- develop specific media tools to invite people to think about Catholic faith
- orient RCIA and evangelization teams to ongoing invitation
- train parish receptionists and others to respond to seekers, inquirers, returning Catholics, etc.
- offer *Seeking Christ* and *Catholics Reaching Out* series opportunities

E. Assist Youth and Young Adults:

Develop Youth and Young Adult components for small groups:

- *Living the Eucharist*
- *Theology on Tap* (Young Adults)
- ministry and service

F. Assist Families:

Train Religious Education and Formation community (schools, academies, and parish programs) to reach out to families:

- develop weekly family home experiences
- cultivate Vacation Bible School in parishes for all children

- use *DeSales Media* and *Neighbors Reaching Neighbors* to reach children not involved in religious education
 - train catechetical personnel to invite and involve inactive children
 - make every effort to locate those who were baptized but do not engage in parish/school/academy life
-

PART FOUR

Part Four of the *Springboard* is a sampling of the events and initiatives that will be offered by the Diocesan School of Evangelization, but not a complete list. Please go often to www.bqonlineformation.org for registration and other information.

Springboard Time Line 2015-2018

Beginning on Holy Family Sunday 2014

Announcement of the *Evangelization and Renewal Springboard for the Diocese of Brooklyn*
THE JOY OF ENCOUNTERING CHRIST—THE FAMILY’S HOPE

January, March, May 2015

Saint John’s University/Diocese of Brooklyn: sessions regarding the Family for parish leaders

January 2015

School of Evangelization Convocation

Kick-off for ***THE JOY OF ENCOUNTERING CHRIST—THE FAMILY’S HOPE***

Winter-Spring 2015

Form small parish groups and train leaders:

- Inactive Catholic Initiative: *Awakening Faith*
- Young Adult Initiatives
- Youth Initiatives
- Seeker Initiatives
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
- Special Needs Religious Education
- Parish Evangelization Teams

Summer 2015

- Establish and train Parish Evangelization Teams
- Establish Vacation Bible Programs in parishes
- Announce initiatives to reach the “missing” children—those baptized but not participating in parish/school/academy life

June 2015

Parishes commit to *Living the Eucharist* for Lent of 2016, 2017, and 2018

- Commitment of parishes
- Development of Teams
- Preparation for *Living the Eucharist* in parishes

June 2015

- Home Visiting Teams established in parishes: *Neighbors Reaching Neighbors*—seekers, religious education recruitment, early information about *Living the Eucharist*

July 2015

- Diocesan training for *Living the Eucharist* Parish Leadership Team Coordinators and parish staff representatives

August 2015

- Steubenville Conference for Youth at Saint John's University

September 2015

World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

- Use materials for family prayer and faith sharing
- Participate in local and other events related to the WMF 2015

October 2015

- Beginning of parish orientation and training for *Living the Eucharist* Parish Leadership Teams

November 2015

- Diocesan Gathering for WMF 2015 follow-up

Advent 2015

- Use materials for small group and family sharing during Advent
 - Use Advent calendar diocesan-wide family project
-

Holy Family Sunday 2015

Winter/Spring 2016

Parish small group formation and trainings continue:

- Lent 2016--*Living the Eucharist*
- Young Adult Initiatives
- Youth components of *Living the Eucharist*

Summer 2016

- World Youth Day in Poland
- Religious Education initiatives, home visiting initiatives, invitation initiatives
- Diocesan training for *Living the Eucharist* Parish Leadership Team Coordinators and parish staff representatives
- Establish Vacation Bible Programs in parishes
- Announce initiatives to reach the “missing” children—those baptized but not participating in parish/school/academy life
- Train Parish Evangelization Team members

September 2016

- School of Evangelization Convocation
- School of Evangelization Annual Report
- Ongoing training in discipleship, small group leadership, etc.

October 2016

- Evangelization Teams advanced training and refreshing
- Beginning of parish training for *Living the Eucharist* Parish Leadership Teams

Advent 2016

- Small groups and family sharing
 - Advent calendar diocesan-wide family project
-

Holy Family Sunday 2016

Winter/Spring 2017

Convocations and Small Groups

- Theme: Witnessing to Jesus Christ in our Daily Lives
- Celebration of achievements thus far
- Celebration of those who have returned to the faith, joined the Church, etc.

Lent 2017

- *Living the Eucharist* parish small groups meet
- Parish outreach to seekers and inactive Catholics

Easter 2017

- Small groups continue
- Train Parish Evangelization Team members

Summer 2017

- Religious Education initiatives, home visiting initiatives, invitation initiatives
- Diocesan training for *Living the Eucharist* Parish Leadership Team Coordinators and parish staff representatives
- Establish Vacation Bible Programs in parishes
- Announce initiatives to reach the “missing” children—those baptized but not participating in parish/school/academy life

September 2017

- School of Evangelization Convocation
- *The Joy of Encountering Christ-The Family's Hope Report*
- Ongoing training in discipleship, small group leadership, etc.

October 2017

- Beginning of parish training for Living the Eucharist Parish Leadership Teams

Advent 2017

- Continue small groups
 - Advent calendar diocesan-wide family project
-

Holy Family Sunday 2017

Winter/Spring 2018

Parish small group formation and trainings continue

- *Living the Eucharist*
- Young Adult Initiatives
- Youth Initiatives

- Family Initiatives
- Adult Faith Formation Initiatives

Summer 2018

- Religious Education initiatives, home visiting initiatives, invitation initiatives
- establish additional Vacation Bible School and Faith Formation programs in parishes

September 2018

- School of Evangelization Annual Report
- Ongoing training in discipleship, small group leadership, evangelization methods, etc.

October 2018

- Evangelization Teams advanced training and refreshing
 - Keynote, breakouts

October or November 2018

- *Diocesan Celebration: We Have Encountered Jesus*