



Evangelii Gaudium

Prayer Module 6

‘Love Changes Everything’



Published and developed by the Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand. For questions on the use of this prayer resource, you may email any of the developers:

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Final Blessing



Let us join Pope Francis when he declared the following words...

My mission of being in the heart of the people is not just a part of my life or a badge I can take off; it is not an “extra” or just another moment in my life. Instead, it is something I cannot uproot from my being without destroying my very self.

I am a Mission in this earth (*pause for awhile*);

that is the reason why I am here in the world. We must regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing (#273).

Amen



i New Revised Standard Version. 1989, Luke 9: 1-6

ii Some texts were redacted to suit as intercessory prayers

Intercessory Prayersⁱⁱ

(Assign a person to read each prayer.)

The work of evangelisation can be challenging-- when our ideas of what Church should be ,differ; or when people do not believe in Church anymore, and we ourselves have given up. Purify and strengthen our motivation, to commit to our definitive, deepest and greatest motivation, to see clearly the ultimate reason and meaning behind all we do: that is the glory of the Father, which Jesus has sought in every moment of His life (#267). E te Ariki...

Response: Whakarongo mai ra kia matou

Sometimes we are tempted to be that kind of Christian who keeps the wounds of Jesus at arm's length. Yet You want us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. You invite us to enter into the reality of other people's lives and know the power of tenderness (#270). E te Ariki

Response: Whakarongo mai ra kia matou

May we ever be aware of the richness that evangelisation brings into our lives. That we may receive the gift of beholding spiritual horizons and making us more sensitive to the workings of the Holy Spirit that takes us beyond our limited constructs (#272). E te Ariki

Response: Whakarongo mai ra kia matou

Let us share our own personal intentions... E te Ariki

Response: Whakarongo mai ra kia matou

Love Changes Everything

Prayer-reflection on being Spirit-Filled Evangelisers
(Chapter 5)

Opening Prayer / Focusing

Let us put ourselves in the loving presence of God and of one another. And let us start the prayer by listening to the song "Love Changes Everything".

Scripture Readingⁱ:

Luke 9: 1-6 (The Commissioning of the 12 Apostles)

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to heal. He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there.

Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing the diseases everywhere.

Reflection: *As you heard the Gospel, share a word or phrase that struck you*



Wisdom from Evangelii Gaudium

Love changes us and never leaves us the same. Giving our lives to Jesus is like falling in love. Evangelisation is an expression of that intimacy. Pope Francis says it succinctly “The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him” (#264). It is love that makes us Spirit-filled evangelizers.

Below are some lines from Evangelii Gaudium that explain what it means to be Spirit-filled evangelizers.

(Take turns to read each line).

- Spirit-filled evangelizers are evangelizers who pray and work and could cultivate an interior space which can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity (#262).
- We should aim to be like the early Christians throughout history who are filled with joy, unflagging courage, and zeal in proclaiming the Gospel despite insurmountable difficulties (#263).
- To be evangelizers of souls, we need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people’s lives and to discover that this is itself a source of greater joy. Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for people (#268)
- A committed missionary knows the joy of being a spring which spills over and refreshes others. Only the person who feels happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary (#272)

- If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realise that every person is worthy of our giving. Not for their physical appearance, their abilities, their language, their way of thinking, or for any satisfaction that we might receive, but rather because they are God’s handiwork and creation; created in God’s image, and he or she reflects something of God’s glory. Every human being is the object of God’s infinite tenderness, and God is present in their lives (#274)
- If we think that things are not going to change, we need to recall that Jesus Christ has triumphed over sin and death and is now almighty. Jesus Christ truly lives...Christ, risen and glorified, is the wellspring of our hope, and Jesus will not deprive us of the help we need to carry out the mission which Jesus entrusted to us (#275)
- No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted (#279)
- Yet there is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything in detail, and instead letting the Holy Spirit enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever the Holy Spirit wills. The Holy Spirit knows well what is needed in every time and place. This is what it means to be mysteriously fruitful (#280)

Reflection:

- *With the person beside you reflect on what challenges you face in being an Evangeliser and what sustains you.*
- *What particular lines from Evangelii Gaudium speak to you?*