



January 2024

Dear Parishioners,

As a young Catholic I was unsure of how to share my faith and put that into action, let alone to understand what evangelization looks like in my life. Me? An evangelizer? Say what?

As I grew older, I began to live out the calling - to evangelize and faith-share...
A calling that is given to all of us by Jesus - to proclaim the Gospel, which is what the root word 'evangelize' means in Greek.

St. Pope John Paul II shared how evangelization also means to deepen one's faith as well as deepen the Gospel in the lives of believers. Welcome to the New Evangelization, my Catholic friend!

I can sum up in three words on how to become a Catholic evangelizer. Invitation. Try Alpha.
St. Max Alpha hopes to raise awareness and help advocate our parish wide call to evangelization.

Alpha is part of the road map plan to engage the "Religious None" – according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "a catchall phrase for those who identify as agnostic, atheist, 'spiritual but not religious,' or unaffiliated, meaning those with no religious home" — and our St. Max Alpha doesn't stop there!

It is also great for those folks of faith who may be sacramentalized; yet, not fully catechized, as the Alpha discussions bring up thought provoking questions that excavate further faith reflection. It helps us engage our faith and look for ways to move to a deeper encounter of our Lord.

Personally, I have seen how it encourages the typical Catholic to take another step to further one's formation after the Alpha sessions. It is another spark starter to fan the flames. Alpha calls returning Catholics home. It introduces Jesus to someone of no faith who begins to go to church. Alpha plants seeds of faith. Hence, the word "Alpha" is just like the word means – the beginning...which starts with God, who is the first and last. (Rev. 22:13) With that being said, I extend an invitation to YOU - come to Alpha!

Our parish call is to missionary discipleship. Missionary disciple? Yes, that's you and me. Others in our lives, from neighbors and coworkers to our extended family members, may benefit from Alpha – maybe someone who left the faith, perhaps someone who has no religion, maybe someone who wants to hit the pause button and reflect more deeply on one's faith. Maybe, you are someone new to Catholicism.

Join us and/or extend an invitation to someone in your life. Invite a friend to breakfast—to Alpha!

Let's TELL someone about Jesus!

In Christ,

Holly

Holly J. Moran

Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church