



Vol. 5 | 2009 | Summer  
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# Summer 2009

*New Evangelization Ministries is a non-profit ministry founded by Deacon Ralph Poyo to assist Pastors and pastoral teams in their efforts to bring genuine conversion to the heart of every member of their parish community.*

Where is Deacon Ralph?

## Steubenville Youth Conferences

Steubenville St. Louis  
Mid-America  
Week 2: July 17-19<sup>th</sup>,  
2009

Steubenville West  
Tucson, AZ  
Friday, July 24, 2009 -  
Sunday, July 26, 2009

Steubenville Northwest  
Gonzaga University  
Spokane, WA  
July 31 - August 2, 2009

## NEM

Sacred Heart Parish,  
Palestine, TX Mission –  
September 2009

### *A Difficult Challenge from a Simple Message...*

As NEM continues to bring transforming life to local parishes, one of the most difficult challenges is to articulate the message in a manner that can be easily understood and followed. It is clear that the message of re-inserting the methods of relational ministry is a simple one, the implementation is another matter. While this is the case, there is no replacement for fundamentals. Like in sports, no player can elevate his skills without first mastering the basic skills.

The culture within our local church paradigm is weighed down with an extreme dependency on the methods of program ministry. In other words, we have come to believe that we can buy a program, hot off the shelf, and implement it and believe it is going to cure it all. Let's not misunderstand the point; this is not an indictment on all programs. We often refer churches to use programs but only as a component to what must really be done.

A simple example of this problem will help us understand why this premise is correct. In churches around the country, parishioners enter church on weekends and sit next to strangers for the entire Mass. At the kiss of peace, they give the token nod, never really desiring to get to know who they are worshipping the living with. How can we share the love, let alone the Gospel with people, if we don't even know their names?

VISIT US ON THE WEB FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
MINISTRY AND FUTURE UPDATES!  
[WWW.NEWEVANGELIZATIONMINISTRIES.ORG](http://WWW.NEWEVANGELIZATIONMINISTRIES.ORG)

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The problem with methods of Evangelization today is that we are depending on the proclamation of the message to the multitude, *and we have ceased to focus on the dispersion of the message from one heart to another.*

It is evident that when a person encounters the Living God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, they begin to share about what has happened to them. They begin to give witness to how they have experienced God in their lives TODAY!

We must return to the model of ministry that Jesus focused on while on earth. His focus, amidst the large group programs, was the investment of His life in the lives of twelve men. As a result, when the Lord ascended to heaven, they were then empowered with the “PRESENCE” of God within their hearts and simply gave their hearts away. We are not trained to do that anymore. We need to return to those types of methods so that a visitor can enter any Catholic Church and encounter the Living God, not only on the Altar but in the pew.

### **Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger on the New Evangelization**

Human life cannot be realized by itself. Our life is an open question, an incomplete project, still to be brought to fruition and realized. Each man's fundamental question is: How will this be realized—becoming man? How does one learn the art of living? Which is the path toward happiness?

To evangelize means: to show this path—to teach the art of living. At the beginning of his public life Jesus says: I have come to evangelize the poor (Luke 4:18); this means: I have the response to your fundamental question; I will show you the path of life, the path toward happiness—rather: I am that path.

The deepest poverty is the inability of joy, the tediousness of a life considered absurd and contradictory. This poverty is widespread today, in very different forms in the materially rich as well as the poor countries. The inability of joy presupposes and produces the inability to love, produces jealousy, avarice—all defects that devastate the life of individuals and of the world.

This is why we are in need of a new evangelization—if the art of living remains an unknown, nothing else works. But this art is not the object of a science—this art can only be communicated by [one] who has life—he who is the Gospel personified.

## **Parishes Recognizing the Need for a Pastoral Plan and True Conversion**

The original parishes that partnered with NEM in the last year continue to move forward in their progress. Deacon Ralph has been communicating with the Pastors and their Pastoral Teams that their efforts will flounder if this key component is not completed. Two parishes in Minnesota have gone through all the steps prior to writing the plan but have been, up to now, distracted by parish life from completing this task. Others are at different stages in the process of Plan completion.

There are many different reasons for why this delay occurs, but it is safe to assume that genuine conversion of an entire parish is a process that requires true conversion at every level. From the leadership to the smallest in the pew, all will need to change the way they currently think and do things. If that does not happen, then we as Church are not fulfilling the mission given us by Christ. What is the real cost for this kind of conversion? The answer to this question is the same answer parents recognize in their call as the primary catechist of their children. The true cost is our death required to follow Christ. It is inherent in our logic and nature to seek to find the easy way to do something. However, parishes and parents both have deceived themselves to believe that we can pass on this faith from Jesus to others by simply talking about it!

Somewhere along the recent history of our Church, we began to make the Sacraments the end pursuit of the Faith. One may wonder why this has happened --- It is easier to give people Sacraments than it is to do the sacrificial work of leading people to conversion! Parents, as well as parishes, we have been tempted to avoid the true transformation of being and settled for giving others (as the goal) information about God. We must examine what makes the stories of the Gospels believable! The answer lies in what people witness in true believers who live their lives in relationship with the living God. If all they receive are the stories, then they can't see whether Christ is raised, that is the people do not live as if Christ is indeed raised. However, if they can see Christ alive in you and I, then they can come to believe that God is not only real but also alive in us, right now, today.

The struggle with this truth for those who claim to believe is that they have to go through ongoing conversion in their lives. This is hard for those who only seek to obey when it is convenient or easy to do so. For all those other times, we tend to follow the World's religion of Hedonism and avoid the pain evident with conversion and thus avoid true conversion. Let's be honest, we spend more time blending into the world than living according to the teachings of the Church. That is why parishes are tempted to maintain what they have always done rather than engage in activity that will call them to transformation.

Parish leadership is constantly challenged to by their mission to lead others into that conversion. The key is that it will not happen for the entire flock if they are not led. Thus, transformation within the hearts of the leadership is as essential in parish leadership as it is for parents.

This is the truth that NEM seeks to bring to the parishes that we partner with in ministry!!!!

**HOW CAN YOU  
HELP?**

- Pray for us and the parishes we minister to!
- Subscribe to the Prayer Warrior Team.
- Prayerfully consider supporting NEM financially.