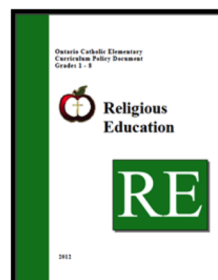


# **THE ONTARIO CATHOLIC CURRICULUM: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Grades 1 - 8**

## **MODULE B: The New Evangelization**



Prepared by Members of the  
Faith in Education Council,  
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for  
The Institute for Catholic Education





- Evangelization belongs to **very nature of the Church** *i.e.* very reason for the Church's existence in history and in cultures
- It is the **very reason for Catholic schools**, who share in the Church's mission to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Catholic teachers, are called to continually, in season and out of season (*2 Tim 4:2*), to :
  - “... **express and convey the Church's teaching** to their students, whenever the occasion presents itself, in a positive, meaningful way” (*Archbishop Paul-André Durocher*)
- “We are invited as members of the faithful, to “... reappropriate exact knowledge of the faith, so as to reinvigorate it, purify it, confirm it, and confess it” (Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei* 4)

# LEARNING GOAL



By the end of this module, you will:

- ✧ develop an understanding of the 8 Elements of the New Evangelization as they relate to the Elementary Religious Education policy document (ICE)
- ✧ identify connections between the New Evangelization and your baptismal call, your own faith journey, and your call as a Catholic educator

- role of Catholic educator is intimately linked to their Baptismal promises and to mission of Catholic Schools

- by our baptism, we are called to be living **witnesses of the faith**, sharers in the Church's evangelizing mission, and in this sense, **ministers** of the faith

- we are called to a **unique vocation** where fostering *spiritually, intellectually* and *virtuous character* formation is essential

- implies spiritual and intellectual preparation and “**religious formation** that is equal to one's general, cultural, and most especially **professional formation**” (*Lay Catholic in Schools*, Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education)

**By Whom:** all the baptized

**For Whom:** for all people

**Where:** in every place, in every time

**What we Proclaim:** the Good News of the Gospel: “Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again”

**How:** by being a light for the world (*Mt 5:14*); witnessing to the faith; and using words to explain the reason for our hope (*1 Pt 3:15*)

# RATIONALE



*Why create the Elementary Religious Education (RE) Policy document at this time?*

✧ the Church has identified that **21<sup>st</sup> century learners** require **a distinctive approach** to Religious Education using the approaches of the New Evangelization

*Blessed John Paul II*



- The Church recognizes that we are in a **new moment**
- no longer assured students have a rich faith life at home and in their parish community (past **catechetical assumption**: we were building on pre-existing faith life that began at home & was fed by Parish)
- The New Evangelization recognizes the need to nurture fundamental **religious literacy**
- QUOTE FROM: Blessed John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation, *Ecclesia in America* :  
“... the **vital core of the new evangelization must be a clear and unequivocal proclamation of the person of Jesus Christ**, that is, the preaching of His name, His teaching, His life, His promises and the Kingdom which He has gained for us by His Paschal Mystery” (66)
- mission of all Catholic schools in Ontario is to support the role of parish and parents in handing on the faith - through words, deeds, celebrating sacraments, daily prayer, and through a distinctive curriculum that helps students see God in all things

# THE NEW EVANGELIZATION



A short joke to begin: Steve Jobs arrives at the Pearly Gates and St. Peter introduces him to Moses, who brings the Ten Commandments written in stone.

St. Peter says, "Moses, I'd like to introduce you to Steve. He's here to upgrade your tablets."

- RE policy places **all catechesis in context of evangelization**
- DEFINITION (from Glossary) = Greek : *evangelion*
  - proclamation of Christ and His Gospel by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ's command (905; cf. 861)
- "new evangelization" is synonymous with **mission**, requiring renewed capacity to set out anew
- dynamics of the 'new evangelization can be understood as the **Church's renewed efforts to meet the challenges** which today's society and cultures are posing to the Christian faith, its proclamation, and its witness. It is synonymous with renewed spiritual efforts in the life of faith within the local Churches starting with a process to discern the changes in various cultural and social settings and their impact on Christian life' (p. 3, *Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, Congregation for Catholic Education*)
- **new millennium** challenges the Catholic school to a **courageous renewal** 'not merely one of adaption, but of missionary thrust and duty to evangelize" (p. 5, *RE Policy Document*)
- **challenges** in education stem from new socio-political and cultural context, reflected in following trends:
  - **crises of values** – growing secularism, influence of social media, subjectivism, moral relativism and

nihilism

➤ **globalization** – rapid structural changes in communication, new developments in sci&tech, the economy, civic and political life

➤ **multiculturalism** – massive migration, multiethnic and religious societies

• **Caution:** 21<sup>st</sup> century learning is not just about technological advances, nor does New Evangelization refer specifically to this only – much broader scope

# New Evangelization as “essential moments”

MINDS  
ON

The process of evangelization is described  
as structured in stages or “**essential  
moments.**”

- General Directory of the Catechist (no. 49)  
- RE Policy Document (p. 4)

## TURN & TALK ACTIVITY

*Share with an elbow partner an “essential moment”  
in your faith journey.*

CONTINUATION OF QUOTE FROM RE Policy Document (p. 4):

- [These essential moments] ... “however are not unique. They may be repeated if necessary as they give **evangelical nourishment in proportion to the spiritual growth** of each person or of the entire community.”

ACTIVITY:

- Allow approx. 5-7 minutes for discussion between elbow partners
- Invite participants to share insights with large group as time permits

Emphasize that we are all on a “faith journey” and that our essential moments continue throughout our life.

# The New Evangelization

MINDS  
ON



## THE ROAD TO EMMAUS



**“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road,  
while he was opening the scriptures to us?”**

*Luke 24:32*

### SUMMARY:

After Jesus died, many of his followers were disheartened. Two turned their backs on Jerusalem and started walking to Emmaus. As they walked, a stranger walked with them and asked what they were talking about. The two told the stranger about Jesus and all that had happened over the past week right up to his death. The stranger in turn then told them about all the scriptures that referred to Jesus.

As they approached Emmaus, the stranger made to continue on, but the two asked him to join them for a meal. As they sat about to eat, the stranger took the bread, blessed it and gave it to them, at that point, their eyes were opened and they recognized him as Jesus, alive and talking to them, but he disappeared from their sight.

They said to each other, “Were our hearts not on fire as he spoke to us and talked to us on the road?” They got up at once, turned their faces back toward Jerusalem and went to find the eleven.

### REFLECTION:

- two disciples were walking AWAY FROM Jerusalem, defeated and lost = possible connection to today’s culture of faith
- one of the disciples is unnamed = Scriptural invitation to place ourselves on the road
- the discussion on the road is about Scripture = connection to first Element of Evangelization i.e. ardent and courageous proclamation of the Gospel
- did not recognize the risen Lord until they shared bread together = Jesus has been with them the *whole* time
- as soon as they knew who He was, travellers turn their faces back to Jerusalem to share the Good News with others
- This is what we are called to do with the ‘New Evangelization’ : we are called to testify to the Living Lord, the reality of Christ present in our daily lives with the community of believers
- “hearts burning within” = EVANGELIZATION IN ACTION!





# The New Evangelization

ACTION

- ✧ Ardent and courageous proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- ✧ Authentic teaching of the doctrine of the Church
- ✧ Adapted to the needs of the times
- ✧ Promotes enculturation of the faith
- ✧ Responsibility of all Baptized
- ✧ Promotes laws and institutions in harmony with Christ's teachings
- ✧ Evangelizes not only individual, but cultures and societies
- ✧ Focus on Ecumenical and Inter-religious dialogue

- Found on **pg. 2** of RE Policy Doc., **8 Elements** characterize the nature of this New Evangelization as described by Blessed JP II in *Redemptoris Missio* and are at the heart of RE and Catechesis

- has to speak to people's hearts (ref, "hearts burning within" on the road to Emmaus) in ways they can understand

## NEW EVANGELIZATION :

1. Ardent and courageous proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - spread the Good News with joy and passion – unabashedly, *loudly and proudly!*
2. Authentic teaching of the doctrine of the Church
  - passionate endeavour that reflects the *beauty and truth of Church teaching*
3. Adapted to the needs of our times
  - *sensitive to the cultural milieu* of learners ; addresses current needs of community
4. Promotes inculturation of the faith
  - cherishing and passing on of the *stories, signs, symbols, and traditions* of our faith
5. Is the responsibility of all the baptized
  - *united in the Body of Christ*, we are all called to service and to witness; special responsibility as Catholic educators
6. Promotes laws and institutions in harmony with Christ's teachings
  - identifies and promotes those elements of our social fabric that are in *harmony with Christ's teachings*, even though they may not be explicitly Christian
7. Evangelizes not only individual, but cultures and societies
  - seeks ongoing growth in *love, justice and faith of all*; re-ignites the love of Christ for self and for others
8. Mission focused on dialogue with other religions and recognition of the Spirit at work within them

- promotes *inter-faith dialogue* recognizing the Spirit is alive in *diverse ways*

It is important to realize that we, as people of God, are all commissioned to be active agents in the new evangelization. "In the project of the new evangelization, there is no part of the Church which is exempt from this engagement" (p.3 RE Policy). This is a renewed commitment to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour - his name, his teaching, his life, his promises, the Paschal Mystery - with joy and conviction and by the witness of each of our lives. The new evangelization has to be lived, and acted upon ... i.e. not just about knowing the content of the Eight Elements ... i.e. "walk the talk"

## The 8 Elements of the New Evangelization

### CONSOLIDATION

#### OPTION A: THINK / PAIR / SHARE

1. After you have been assigned a number from 1 – 8 that represents one of the 8 Elements of the New Evangelization, **gather** with participants with the same number.
2. Your TASK is to **read** pages 1-6 in the RE Policy Document, with a focus on the particular Element of Evangelization that matches your number.
3. On sticky notes, **record** at least 2 quotes from the document that encapsulate the Element. Include the page number.
4. **Post** the quotes on the appropriate chart paper around the room. Be prepared to **share** your findings.

Group Numbers 1 to 8 will need to be assigned for this Option. Chart papers can be given to each group and participants can post them as they share their work.

Below are examples of quotations from the RE Policy Document that further explain each of the 8 Elements of the New Evangelization.

The suggested quotations are not necessarily unique to the Element, and the list is not exhaustive, but is provided merely as a guide.

The intent is for participants to “delve in” to the New Evangelization section, not to correctly categorize quotations.

#### 1. Ardent and courageous proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

**Pg. 1** – “The transmission of the Christian faith in our present culture and society challenges the Church to a new evangelization ‘new in its ardour, methods and expression.’”

**Pg. 2** – “the vital core of the new evangelization must be a clear and unequivocal proclamation of the person of Jesus Christ; that is the preaching of his name, his teaching, his life, his promises and the Kingdom which he has gained for us by his Paschal Mystery.”

**Pg. 4** – “The General Directory for Catechesis describes the process of evangelization as structured in stages or “essential moments”: missionary activity directed to non-believers and those who live in religious indifference.. these moments are not unique: they may be repeated, it necessary, as they give evangelical nourishment in proportion to the spiritual growth of each person or of the entire community.”

#### 2. Authentic teaching of the doctrine of the Church

**Pg. 5** – “The Catholic school as a place of integral education of the human person through a clear educational project of which Christ is the foundation; its ecclesial and cultural identity; its mission of education as a work of love; its service to society; the traits which should characterize the educating community.”

**Pg. 6** “Knowledge acquired by the student in the context of faith becomes a Christian vision of the world, of life, of culture and history.”

#### 3. Adapted to the needs of the times

**Pg. 1** – “The Church is being asked to embrace a new evangelization, especially in reaching out to Christians whose lives are becoming more removed from Christ and the Gospel.”

**Pg. 2** - “It is synonymous with renewed spiritual efforts in the life of faith within the local Churches starting with a process to discern the changes in various cultural and social settings and their impact on Christian life.”

**Pg. 3** – “In the end, the expression ‘new evangelization’ requires finding new approaches to evangelization so as “to be Church” in today’s ever-changing social, cultural situations.”

#### 4. Promotes enculturation of the faith

**Pg. 3** - “Pope Benedict has referred to this new evangelization as the Church opening up and creating a ‘Court of the Gentiles’ in which people might in some way latch on to God, without knowing him and before gaining access to his mystery, at whose service the inner life of the Church stands.”

**Pg. 7** - “As Pope Paul VI stated, ‘modern persons listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.’”

#### 5. Responsibility of all Baptized

**Pg. 2** - “Christ must be proclaimed with joy and conviction and above all by the witness of each one’s life.”

**Pg. 3** - “Every Christian ecclesial community must rededicate itself to its programme of pastoral care which seems to become more difficult and in danger of falling into routine, and thus little able to communicate its original aims and goals.”

**Pg. 11** - “Religious Education is therefore more than teaching life skills or sharing information. It is participation in the essential mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News and to empower young people to live out their baptismal commitment in a mature way.”

#### 6. Promotes laws and institutions in harmony with Christ’s teachings

*Pg. 4 – “Canadian culture and society in general has been highly influenced by globalization and unprecedented technological advances...The exposure to such ideas and beliefs without legitimate critique and prudent explanation has the potential to negatively influence the Christian moral development of our children and youth...it prevents families and individuals from finding time to...address the spiritual needs and religious practices of the family.”*

*Pg. 6 – “Involves care and attention for the weakest in society, to those children who are marginalized and suffer from a material and spiritual poverty.”*

**7. Evangelizes not only individuals but cultures, and societies**

*Pg. 3 - “Benedict XVI envisions that this new evangelization has a particular urgency for the entire Church. It is primarily addressed to those who have drifted from the Church in traditionally Christian countries.”*

*Pg. 5 – “Education faces many new challenges which are the result of a new socio-political and cultural context... reflected in crises of values, globalization, multiculturalism.”*

**8. Focus on Ecumenical and Inter-religious dialogue**

*Pg. 3 - “The Church is called to enter into dialogue with many sectors of human life which are changing (culture, social communications, economy, science and technology, and politics with a sense of boldness in proclaiming the Gospel and the confidence to witness to the gratuitous nature and personal encounter with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”*

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## The 8 Elements of the New Evangelization

### CONSOLIDATION

#### OPTION B: THINK / PAIR / SHARE

1. Your TASK is to **read** pages 1-6 in the RE Policy Document.
2. On sticky notes, **record** at least 3 quotes from the document that resonated with you. Include the page number.
3. **Discuss** your selections with your elbow partner or group.
4. **Categorize** each quote you chose by determining to which of the 8 Elements of the New Evangelization it refers.
5. After discussion, **post** the quotes on the appropriate chart paper around the room. Be prepared to **share** your findings.

Group Numbers 1 to 8 will need to be assigned for this Option. Chart papers can be given to each group and participants can post them as they share their work.

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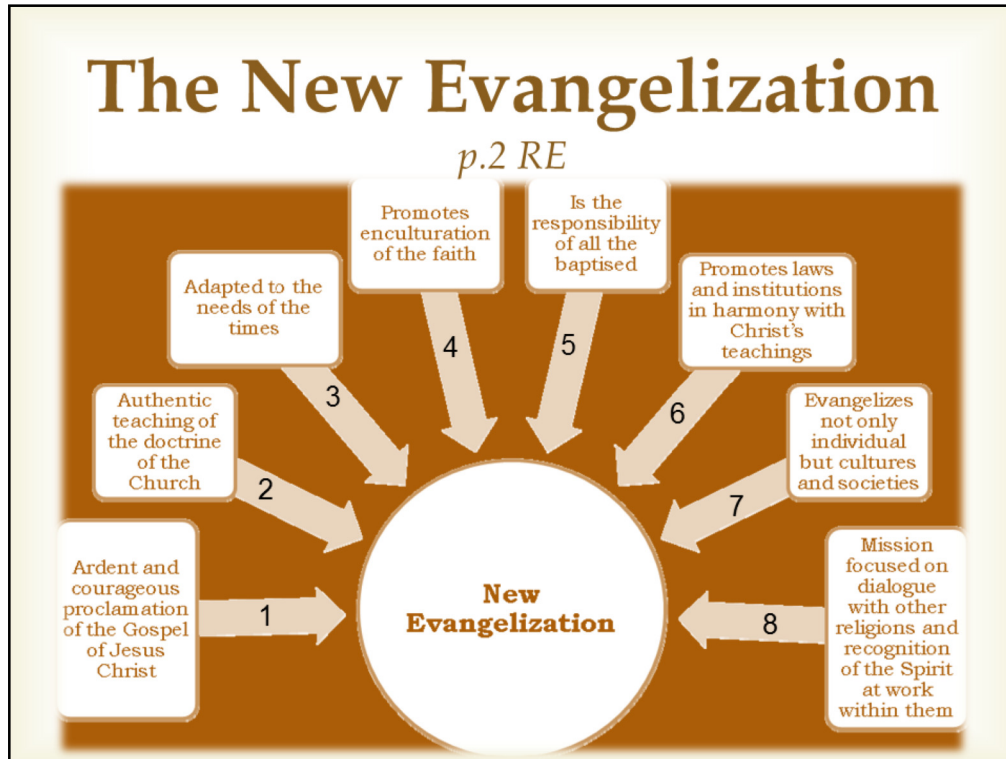
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NOTE:

Project this slide on screen for reference by participants, once they have understood the task (either A or B) and are actively engaged in the activity.





**“Consolidate” GALLERY WALK & ACTIVITY DEBRIEF:**

Following the previous activity, invite participants to do a “gallery walk” of the 8 chart papers around the room.

After an appropriate amount of time, ask them to finish their walk in front of the chart paper they were assigned and have a spokesperson share their findings and their thinking. It is likely that participants will discuss the many challenges that we face in Catholic Schools today.

If the facilitator chooses the alternate activity (OPTION B) whereby participants choose any 2 or 3 quotes that resonate with them, record on stickies, and post them on the appropriate chart papers, it may become apparent that such challenges preoccupy us, as may be evidenced by a “clustering” of quotes for Element #3: Adapted to the Needs of the Times

Group Discussion:

- summary of the session

- *Reflection Question:* **Which of the 8 Elements do you feel you need to learn more about?**

**CONCLUSION:**

*Concluding points below are excerpted from pg. 6 of RE Policy Document:*

- though there are many **challenges** in our Catholic schools, we participate in the evangelizing mission of the Church as a **privileged environment of Christian education**
- cultural identity and educational nature of the Catholic school requires that it be at the public service of society
- one of its most significant elements and potential contributions in this new millennium becomes the **synthesis between culture and faith**
- knowledge, acquired by the learner in the context of faith, becomes a **Christian vision of the**

**world**, of life, of culture and history