

SUMMER EVANGELIZATION KIT

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DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELIZATION
HEADQUARTERS AND PARISH OFFICE
TASK FORCE DE PAUL
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



MEMO TO: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISHIONERS
PRIORITY: HIGHEST
SUBJECT: SUMMER EVANGELIZATION KIT

4 JUN 2017

The following is a joint effort of the parochial vicar and the Seminarian assigned to St. Vincent's to develop a checklist and battle rhythm for you and your family to conduct evangelization over the summer. As per the assignment given by the Pastor, and having complied and sifted through the numerous wonderful suggestions that have come to us both, we have settled both on a list of tools as well as a mindset to prepare you to take the faith out with you this summer. First, realize, that the world you inhabit is in a state of spiritual war. Your evangelization kit is what allows you to not only survive and thrive in such an environment but also to take the fight to the Enemy, disrupt his plans, and bring aid, support, and hope to all you encounter.

In the recent past, the US military has utilized a three-tiered system of occupation in order to combat insurgency in contested territory. These three tiers are the **Forward operating base (FOB)**, the **Combat Outpost (COP)**, and the **combat patrol**. We recommend a similar approach to viewing your life over this summer's campaign (a.k.a. vacation). Think of St. Vincent's parish and its fellowship groups, and Holy Mother Church Militant as your spiritual FOB. Your family (nuclear and extended) is your COP, and your daily routine and forays into the outside world are your patrols. You can (and should) equip yourself at the FOB, train and fortify your COP, and you will launch (spiritually) well-armed patrols from both to disrupt the *Enemy* while sharing the faith with those you encounter.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE (FOB). The FOB in a physical war is quite large. It holds vast quantities of food, water and fuel, has the best medical care, and also protects and serves as a base for artillery to ensure fire supremacy (Hooah!). Just so with Holy Mother Church. Visit her frequently to get resupplied, to get trained, to be supported. Within her high walls you have access to the heavenly nourishment of the Eucharist, and the healing sacrament of Reconciliation. Yet there is more. At this FOB you gain access to prayer warriors (make prayer requests, call for fire, and frequently), further training (utilize the numerous books and cd's of apologetics and catechesis, read and listen to them over the summer). And the support systems available here as well (Rekindle the Fire, Life Teen, Small Christian Communities, Knights of Columbus, WINGS, WINGS II, Two-by-Two, Edge, etc.) will continue to support you, aide you, and better organize your fight in the outside world. Take these tools with you back to your Outpost, where you hold the line in the world.

The Combat Outpost (COP) is much smaller than the FOB, holding no more than 100 soldiers at any given time. They are at some moderate distance away from the FOB, and here the force overwatches the territory in which they reside. The soldiers on these scattered outposts are close knit, capable and supplied by the FOB. They maintain their own internal defense and watch over each other. In the spiritual sense, this is your family. Within the family, utilize the tools of the Church (mentioned above), but also be creative. Blessings should be in your toolkit - claim your children and spouse for Christ before they go to bed. Pray together at meals. Don't allow the enemy to disrupt you with busyness. Fortify the COP with artwork that gives glory to the transcendent (another piece for your toolkit).

The Patrol: This is your daily routine and forays into the outside world (your work, your time at the lake, car rides, trips to the store, restaurant, etc.). We are not meant to hide behind our defenses, to conceal our light of hope, to leave the wounded in the field. **NO.** We are called to go out and get them. Outside these walls is the battlefield and that is where we want to keep it. Or to be more clear, we seek to spread the peace of the interior into the exterior by means of evangelization. To throw back the Enemy's advances, to offer aid wherever we can. We live and we work in the patrol. Engage your neighbor.



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RESOURCES FOR YOUR SUMMER EVANGELIZATION KIT

FOB (FORWARD OPERATING BASE)

Websites

- WordOnFire.org
- FirstThings.com
- FORMED.org (Parish code: 4PGDMC)
- Catholic Education Resource Center (catholiceducation.org)
- Catholic.com
- LifeTeen.com

Books

- The Holy Bible (especially using *Lectio Divina*)
- “Return” by Brandon Vogt
- “How to Win Friends for Christ” by Thomas Cavanaugh & John Love
- Ask for suggestions at one of the three local Catholic books stores:
 - All Saints (8808 Coldwater Rd),
 - Cathedral Bookstore (915 S Clinton St)
 - ABBA House (3209 N Anthony Blvd)

CD's/Podcasts

- Lighthouse Media CD rack in the Gathering Space
- Homilies online (saintvfw.org)
- Bishop Baron's *Word on Fire* (wordonfire.org)
- Fr. John Riccardo's *Christ is the Answer*
- Matt Fradd's *Pints with Aquinas* (<http://mattfradd.com/pints-with-aquinas/>)

COP (COMBAT OUTPOST)

- Dinner with the family every night, with each member sharing a “grace of the day”
- Praying together as a family, discussing the upcoming Sunday readings
- Studying the lives of the saints
- Parents praying with and blessing their children before bed
- Artwork

“Truth can find other complementary forms of human expression, above all when it is a matter of evoking what is beyond words: the depths of the human heart, the exaltation of the soul, the mystery of God. Genuine sacred art draws man to adoration, to prayer, and to the love of God.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2500

Decorate the interior of your home to express the prayer that takes place within the interior of your heart. Some ideas could be:

- Divine Mercy
- Sacred Heart
- Annunciation
- The Incredulity of Saint Thomas - Caravaggio, entering the wounded side of Christ



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PATROLS

- Carry a pocket bible and rosary**
This will give you an opportunity to read sacred scripture while waiting in a line at the store or to share the Word with others when evangelizing.
- Pray for other drivers on the road,**
especially those drivers who are an opportunity for you to exercise patience.
- Place a sticker on your car advertising Redeemer Radio 106.3 -**
which could lead to someone listening and receiving the truth. It is a practical way to lead people to the faith.
- Rosary Walks -**
walk through your neighborhood (bike path, park) praying the rosary and whenever you see someone, simply introduce yourself and ask if they have any intentions that you can offer while praying.
- Host dinner parties for your neighbors**
to develop a relationship with them and create an opportunity to share with them personal meaning behind your religious artwork.
- Allow your faith to become so much of your character that you naturally speak about it regardless of the company you are in** (1 Peter 3:15).
Offer to pray for co-workers in times of trouble. The same applies at the gym, at your children's sporting events and at school.
- Care Packages for the homeless -**
have a small bag or box filled with basic necessities (food, snacks, winter clothing) to share with the homeless you see around town. Include in the bag a prayer card with some artwork and information on how to contact area charities, especially the St. Vincent de Paul Society (260-489-3537 ext. 461).
- Restaurants -**
pray grace before meals, not in a public showy way, but don't conceal it. And along with a tip, write a prayer on the bill when you receive it and say a prayer of thanksgiving for your server.
- Travelling -**
say a prayer before, during and after your travel, especially the rosary. Make the Sign of the Cross when you pass a Catholic church where Jesus is present in the tabernacle.
- Invite friends to neutral events in the parish**
as a way to introduce them to our campus and parish community. Some ideas:
 - VincentFest - September 24
 - Music Festival - June 26 & 27 (*more information to come!*)
 - SALT Date Nights - next one is June 17
 - Tenebrae - March 30, 2018
 - Lessons & Carols - December 6
 - Epiphany Concert