EVANGELIZATION: GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Matthew 28:18-20
Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Luke 4:43
43 But he said to them, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Acts: 1:8
8 But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

1 Corinthians 9:16
16 If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!
17 If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

Catechism
730 At last Jesus' hour arrives: he commends his spirit into the Father's hands at the very moment when by his death he conquers death, so that, "raised from the dead by the glory of the Father," he might immediately give the Holy Spirit by "breathing" on his disciples. From this hour onward, the mission of Christ and the Spirit becomes the mission of the Church: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."

Mission—a requirement of the Church's catholicity
849 The missionary mandate. "Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be ‘the universal sacrament of salvation,’ the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men": "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age."

What is your reaction to the word evangelization?
The Church exists in order to evangelize. How would you describe Catholic evangelization?
Do you feel the same obligation as Paul? How can you do this as a lay person?
What are you doing in response to the Great Commission?
What are the implications for you personally of Luke 4:43, read in light of paragraph 730 and 849 of the catechism?
On Evangelization In The Modern World – Pope Paul the VI

“The laity

70. Lay people, whose particular vocation places them in the midst of the world and in charge of the most varied temporal tasks, must for this very reason exercise a very special form of evangelization.

Their primary and immediate task is not to establish and develop the ecclesial community – this is the specific role of the pastors – but to put to use every Christian and evangelical possibility latent but already present and active in the affairs of the world.

Their own field of evangelizing activity is the vast and complicated world of politics, society and economics, but also the world of culture, of the sciences and the arts, of international life, or the mass media.

It also includes other realities which are open to evangelization, such as human love, the family, the education of children and adolescents, professional work, suffering.

The more Gospel-inspired lay people there are engaged in these realities, clearly involved in them, competent to promote them and conscious that they must exercise to the full their Christian powers which are often buried and suffocated, the more these realities will be at the service of the kingdom of God and therefore of salvation in Jesus Christ, without in any way losing or sacrificing their human content but rather pointing to a transcendent dimension which is often disregarded.”

The pope then goes on to discuss the responsibilities of the family, the young and diversified ministries for evangelizing activity.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit fill our hearts with the grace required to live out Christ’s commission to proclaim the Good News to all the world using words when necessary but especially in our actions. Amen.