

# Mission to Evangelize

BY GRACE MAZZA URBANSKI

*We pray for the Pope's intention for the month of September. Pray that "by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize."*

What is a "mission to evangelize?" Well, evangelization means to tell people about the Gospel. The Gospel is the true story of Jesus Christ:

- \* Jesus is God, and he became a baby in the womb of Mary of Nazareth.
- \* Jesus grew up as a loving child, filled with strength and wisdom.
- \* Jesus taught others about the Kingdom of God, and then died for us on the Cross.
- \* God raised Jesus from the dead three days later.
- \* Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we hope to live forever with God in heaven.

## *Can you tell that good news to others? Can you evangelize?*

When you look at the word evangelize, you can find another word hiding: ANGELIZE!

When we bring the story of Jesus to others, we feel as joyful as angels. In the painting above, the angel Gabriel asks Mary to bring Jesus into the world. Mary said yes, and so can we. Prayer can help us say yes like Mary. Let's pray together: Jesus, help me say yes. Like Mary, I want to bring you to others.

## *Think About it!*

- \* What do you like most when you imagine being with Jesus?

- \* What questions would you ask Jesus if he stepped out of your Bible for a visit?
- \* Ask Jesus those questions now, in prayer. How does he respond to you?

## *Scripture Activity:*

### *Lectio Divina*

*Lectio Divina* (Latin for divine reading) is a centuries-old prayer form your family might love! Many people have heard of *lectio divina* but aren't quite sure what it's all about. It's simple, really, and can fit nicely into your family's routine. Try setting aside 5-10 minutes on a Sunday afternoon to honor the Lord's Day in a special way by spending time with Jesus in the Bible.

*Choose a Bible story that is brief enough for the youngest child present to listen to attentively. For example:*

- \* Zacchaeus the tax collector climbing the tree (Luke 19:1-10)

- \* Jesus blessing the children (Mark 10:13-16)
- \* Jesus curing the bleeding woman (Luke 8:43-48)
- \* Jesus calling the first disciples (Matthew 4:18-22).

## *Then follow these five simple steps:*

1. The leader reads the passage aloud.
2. And then reads it aloud again.
3. Family members take turns sharing a word, phrase, or image that stood out for them, and explain why.
4. The leader reads the passage one last time, followed by silence.
5. Close with a short prayer of thanks or praise. (Feel free to use your own words!)



Grace Mazza Urbanski is the author of *Pray with Me: Seven Simple Ways to Pray with Your Children*. Catechist is happy to offer these reflections on the Pope's monthly intentions courtesy of The Apostleship of Prayer. Find more at [ApostleshipOfPrayer.org](http://ApostleshipOfPrayer.org).

