



# Light of the World Parish Evangelization Process

*Bringing the Light of Christ into the world  
through a comprehensive Parish Evangelization Process*

## What is the Light of the World Parish Evangelization Process?

The Light of the World Evangelization Process (“LOTW Process”) is a powerful plan for evangelization and renewal within an individual parish. Its goal is not merely to fill seats at Sunday Masses. Rather it seeks a true conversion of heart through a personal encounter with the Risen Christ.

The LOTW Process is a response to the “Great Commission” - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations* (Mt 28:19). It reaches out to all, from the beginning “seeker” to the mature Catholic Christian. It lovingly welcomes and responsibly nurtures all who seek the Truth of Christ.

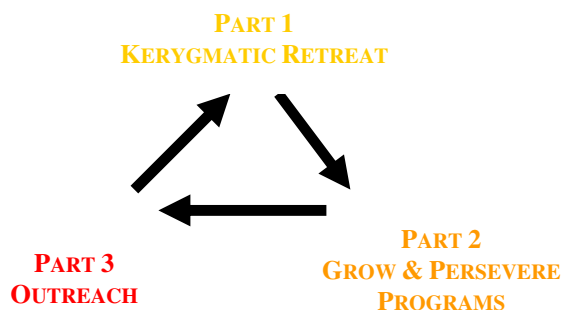
The LOTW Process is a realization of *Evangelii Nuntiandi* - *Evangelizing is . . . [the Church’s] deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.* (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 14). The Process promotes evangelizing not as a task reserved for clerics, but a way of life for all the faithful.

The LOTW Process is an answer to the call for a “New Evangelization” by Blessed John Paul II. The Process invites every member of the parish to use his/her particular gifts to reach out to all within the parish boundaries who are open to the call of Christ.

The LOTW Process is not a new movement or method of lay spirituality. It is merely an expression of the life of the Church as it was instituted by Christ, begun by the Apostles and is meant to be lived out today. It promotes a personal encounter with the living Christ, a loving relationship with Him, and the building of a supportive community of believers. The LOTW Process proclaims the *kerygma* – the Good News of Salvation – in an effective, personal way and invites its heartfelt acceptance. It affords parishioners the opportunity to better understand and more devoutly embrace the Sacraments. It invokes the power of Holy Spirit. And, it challenges parishioners to live as disciples and apostles in their daily lives.

The LOTW Process can be implemented by any parish, anywhere. It is both “doctrinally sound” and “user friendly.” It is undertaken by parishioners with their pastor. The Process is supported throughout the United States and in Australia by the Light of the World Evangelization Ministries professional staff and dedicated volunteer personnel.

Light of the World is a Three-Part Process:



**Part 1: Light the Fire** through a Kerygmic Retreat.

**Part 2: Grow the Fire** through ongoing adult formation.

**Part 3: Spread the Fire** through internal and external parish outreach efforts.

## **The Light of the World Kerygmatic Retreat**

The Retreat reaches out to every member of a parish no matter where they are in their faith journey and invites them to a deeper relationship with our Lord and a greater knowledge of the Catholic Faith. It facilitates a personal and “heart-felt” encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ through: (1) an effective proclamation of the Gospel message and (2) a renewal of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

The kerygma is proclaimed primarily by lay men and women. These lay retreat leaders weave their own witness into the message of salvation in order to make it “real” and “personal” for their fellow parishioners. Retreatants are given the opportunity to “process” the message of the kerygma in small group discussions and in silent reflection before our Lord in the Eucharist.

The weekend Retreat can be held at the parish facilities. Retreatants return home every night to spend time with their families, sleep in their own bed and return refreshed and ready the next day. Holding the retreat on the parish grounds reinforces the reality of parish as “family” and church as “home.”

## **Grow & Persevere Programs**

The experience of a retreat is an awesome *first step* in a person’s beginning or continued spiritual journey. To bear lasting fruit however, the retreatants must be afforded opportunities for ongoing faith formation. Grow & Persevere programs help parishioners to more deeply embrace the Liturgy and Sacraments, provide an opportunity for guided Bible study, explain the tradition and teachings of the Church, promote the parish community as family, and facilitate the dedication of time, talent and treasure to God.

Light of the World Evangelization Ministries (“LOTWEM”) promotes the formation of *Small Faith Communities* within a parish. Past retreatants meet regularly in small groups to pray, study, support each other in their faith walk, socialize and perform charitable works. LOTWEM also encourages the support/implementation of other adult faith formation initiatives (e.g. parish Bible study, men’s/women’s groups, parish missions, speakers, prayer groups, days of renewal, pilgrimages, Adoration, etc.).

## **Parish Outreach**

Parishioners who experience the Light of the World retreat are encouraged to support outreach ministries that already exist within a parish and form additional ones with the pastor’s approval (e.g. RCIA, ministries of care and bereavement, social committees, St. Vincent DePaul and St. Martin De Porres Societies, etc.). Parishioners are also encouraged to live evangelization at home, work and in social settings. Further, Light of the World promotes two-by-two “Parish Visitation” to new parishioners, “fallen-away” parishioners, all parishioners, or even to the entire local community.

The LOTW Process does not exist as a self-serving club, movement or society. Rather, it is designed to be a foundational ministry that (1) funnels reinvigorated parishioners into all other ministries and (2) supports the pastor, parish leaders and all aspects of parish life.

*Light of the World Evangelization Ministries exists to renew and revitalize a parish by inviting parishioners to a radical conversion of heart. Individuals are confronted with the truth of God’s love for them and His plan for their salvation through Jesus Christ. And, they are asked to say “Yes” to God’s will for them. Through this “Yes,” the support of parish priests and leaders and through the power of the Holy Spirit, they and their parish will be set on fire and that fire will spread!*