

# Bishop Asks for Input

## ~ *Evangelization with Joy* ~

When were you first aware that Jesus our Savior was in love with you, and/or that You were in love with Him?

I have been Catholic for 61 years (baptized at 10 days old). My parents Francis and Virginia were very devout Catholics, and taught me about our Loving God. My first school was Seven Dolors Catholic School in Manhattan. I had learned in my mind that Jesus loved me, but it was much later that this truth sunk deeper into my heart.

As an adult, I always went to Sunday Mass (notice the phrasing: “went to,” not “celebrated”). Even in my “young and foolish” college days, I followed my family custom and attended Holy Mass each week. A turning point came when my mom died in 1990. It was a time of profound spiritual awakening for me, as I turned to God to help me make sense of death. A year later, I became more active in pro-life ministry in the “Summer of Mercy” in Wichita. The following summer, I began to discern my vocational call to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

A key part of my spiritual journey was to realize that Jesus loved me personally. Yes, Jesus loved me as his beloved son, made in His image and likeness. That truth led me to love my Savior more. Each day, I ask Jesus to help me. Often that plea for assistance is for a problem I have, or a discernment I am facing. More and more in my prayer, I desire to simply ask for the Lord’s help in loving Him, and for Jesus’ help in being more open to receiving His love.

“We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of our Father’s love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son” (Pope St. John Paul II). *I ask your input.* We are discerning how we can better *Evangelize with Joy*. This phrase is from Pope Francis’ *The Joy of the Gospel*. We have discussed this with the priests and the chancery staff. Now we ask your input. *Please consider completing the survey questions* below, and add any ideas of your own as to how we can better share Jesus’ love with each other. Your pastor may give you an opportunity to do this at the parish level. Thank you for your input.

In the story of the rich young man, we learn: **“Jesus, looking at him, loved him ...”** (Mark 10:21). Jesus is looking at you and loving you. Let us discern how we may fall deeper in love with Him, and share His saving faith with others. + *Bishop John*

# Evangelization with Joy: Bishop seeks input from the faithful

**Editor's Note:** Please read the Bishop's Column on Page 1 in regard to the questions below. You may clip and return the answers written here, or written out on a separate sheet, to Evangelization with Joy Survey, 910 Central, P.O. Box 137, Dodge City, KS, 67801, or email your reply to [gkirmer@dcdiocese.org](mailto:gkirmer@dcdiocese.org), with the subject "Evangelization with Joy Survey."

**1** How do I fall deeper in love with Jesus Christ, my Savior? How do we, as a family and a parish, fall deeper in love with Jesus Christ, our Savior? Jesus is in my heart of hearts, He is my fundamental relationship, He is my Brother and Friend. St. Thomas said: **"My Lord and my God!"** (John 20:28).

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**2** How do I/we better evangelize (share the Good News of Jesus Christ and His Church), as missionary disciples, sharing my/our love for Jesus Christ in:

- building one-on-one relationships

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- serving (especially those in the peripheries), and

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- reconciling with God, others, and myself?

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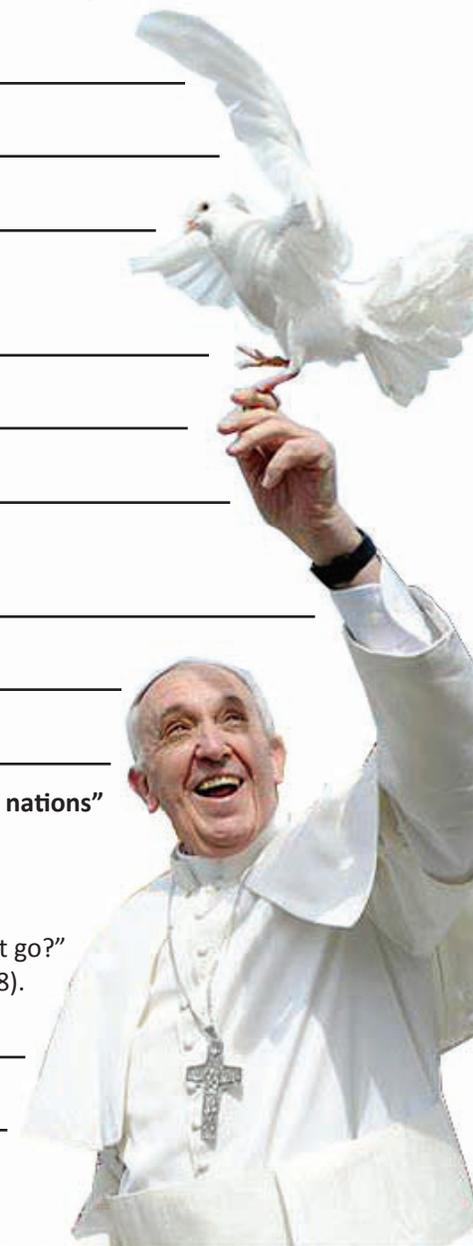
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Jesus said: **"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations"** (Matthew 28:19).

**3** What is bearing fruit in the Lord in my personal life, my family, and our parish? What can we cultivate and fertilize, that we bear more fruit? What, after many attempts to improve, do we need to "let go?" (Luke 13:6-9). Jesus said: **"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples"** (John 15:8).

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# Evangelización con Alegría: Obispo busca palabras de los fieles

**Nota del editor:** Lea la columna del obispo en la página 1 con respecto a las preguntas de abajo. Puede recortar y devolver las respuestas escritas aquí, o escritas en una hoja separada, a Evangelization with Joy Survey, 910 Central, P.O. Box 137, Dodge City, KS, 67801, o envíe su respuesta por correo electrónico a [gkirmer@dciocese.org](mailto:gkirmer@dciocese.org), con el asunto "Evangelization with Joy Survey".

**1** **¿Cómo me enamoro más profundamente de Jesucristo, mi Salvador?**  
¿Cómo nosotros, como familia y parroquia, nos enamoramos más profundamente de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador? Jesús está profundamente en mi corazón, es mi relación fundamental, es mi Hermano y Amigo. Santo Tomás dijo: **"¡Mi Señor y mi Dios!"** (Juan 20:28).

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**2** ¿Cómo evangelizamos mejor (compartir la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo y Su Iglesia), como discípulos misioneros, compartiendo mi/nuestro amor por Jesucristo en:

- construir relaciones uno a uno,

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- servir (especialmente aquellos al rededor), y

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- ¿Reconciliarme con Dios, con los demás y conmigo?

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Jesús dijo: **"Vayan pues, y hagan que todos los pueblos sean mis discípulos"** (Mateo 28:19).

**3** En mi vida personal, en mi familia y en nuestra parroquia, ¿Qué está dando fruto en el Señor? ¿Qué podemos cultivar y fertilizar para dar más fruto? ¿Después de muchos intentos de mejorar, qué necesitamos "podar?" (Lucas 13: 6-9). Jesús dijo: **"Mi Padre es glorificado cuando ustedes producen abundantes frutos: entonces pasan a ser discípulos míos"** (Juan 15: 8).

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