

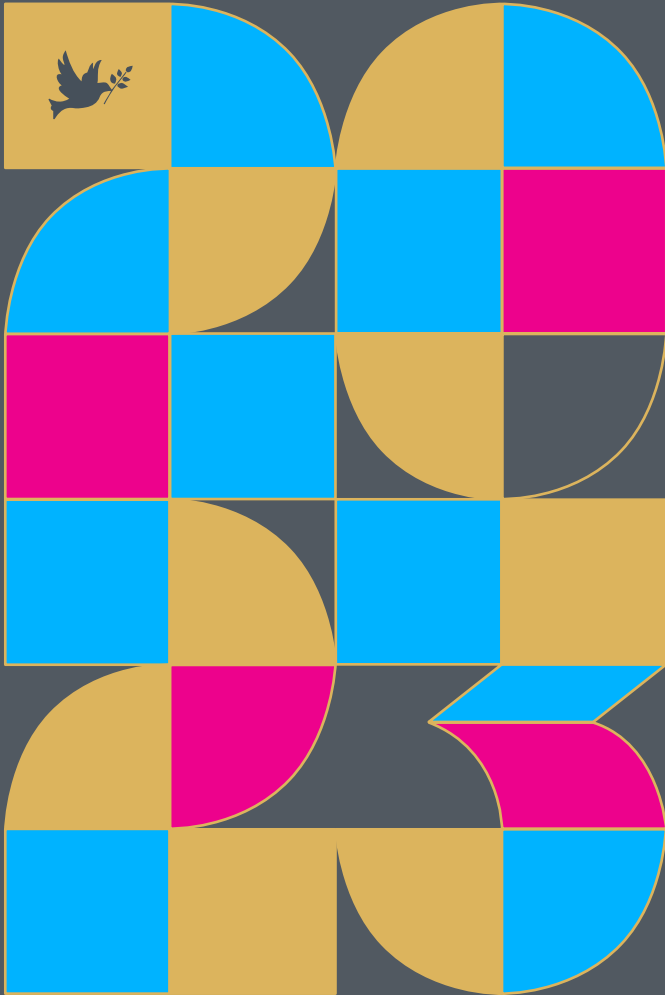
NORTH COAST CATHOLIC

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1



but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



St. Paul School of Evangelization

An interview with
Paul Obranovich



SAINT PAUL
STREET EVANGELIZATION



1 What got you involved in this work of Evangelization?

I am a cradle Catholic and been somewhat involved with the Church throughout my life. All the ministries that I have done really didn't seem like God's will. It was all good stuff, but not a lot of fruit. I got burnt out on doing just the same old stuff. I am heart broken to still see that so many people are leaving the Church. Many are my friends and family. And so many people call themselves Catholic, but only go to Mass once a year or not following the faith much. It was about 6 years ago

a friend of mine knew my frustration and just heard about a new Ministry. St. Paul Street Evangelization. It was truly a Holy Spirit moment in my life. I went on their website and couldn't believe that Catholic can actually evangelize, and even go on the streets. I took the training and what an eye opener it was for me. I can do this.

So, I contacted the team in Berkely and went out on their next evangelizing day. I was so afraid. All I did was stood back about 15 feet and just watched. To this day it is the most amazing experience I have had in my life. So, I took more training and started a team in Napa.

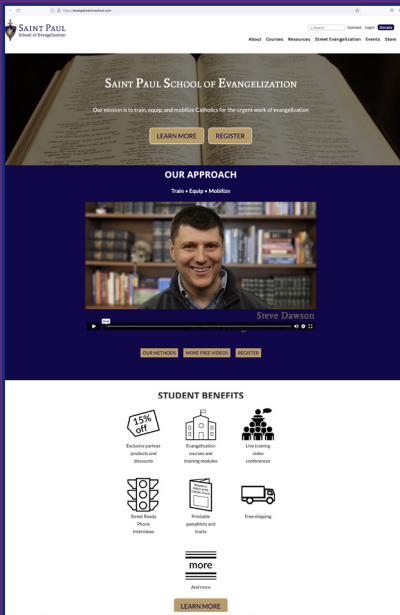
2 What are some common misconceptions about evangelization?

Literally, people freak out when they hear the word, Evangelization. They think it's knocking on doors. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Protestants do that. Not Catholics.

It's standing on a street corner with a bullhorn yelling, repent or go to Hell. Catholics really don't have a clue what it means or what it is. Let alone how to do it. So, most of us just ignore it and don't want anything to do with it. We have very little or no training or teaching on how to Evangelize. It's like learning to ride a bike when you were a little kid. At first you are scared and afraid. Then you fall, and don't want to do it again. After a while you get back up and try again. Then with some help and practice, you are riding a bike and it's one of the most remembered childhood memories.

3 What are some basic practical principles to keep in mind while evangelizing?

Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does all the work, you just show up. I have way too many stories about evangelizing and thinking to myself. How did I do that? I do highly recommend taking some training. It can be as little as a 3-hour workshop. Some training gives us more confidence and some tools to get started. Trust me, everybody can do this. And should.



4 What is the main message?

To share the greatest news, we have. To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God created us to be in paradise, Adam and Eve sinned against God. Jesus came on earth as a man, crucified and was raised from the dead, to conquered sin and death. So, we can follow Jesus and to be with him in Heaven for eternity.

5 How do you deal with questions you can answer on the spot?

When we go out to evangelize, we have a small table with us. On the table we have over 25 pamphlets on different topic about the Church that answer most questions. Don't be afraid about this. Share what you know. You do not need a degree in Theology to evangelize. If all else fails, just tell them go to **Catholic.com**.

6 What are some of your favorite memories of having stepped out to do this?

I have way too many memories and stories to tell. And they are all miraculous. It's simple. To be able to tell someone that Jesus loves you and wants only the best for you. And to pray together for a minute. It's the best thing that can happen. You are touching people with God himself. What is better than that? To be able to help people with their faith journey is doing God's will. You can feel God smiling down on us.

Final comments.

About a couple of months ago I started to put an evangelization table outside of the church after Mass. Just to meet people. Like having hospitality to the max. I have made so many connections with people in our parish. Do you know that the people you see at Mass every week are suffering or struggling with some-

thing and need prayers? In some small way I have reached out to them, and everyone is so thankful for me being there. It is the most fulfilling ministry I have been involved with in my life. I invite you to check out the St. Paul School of Evangelization at **evangelizationschool.com**.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me.
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