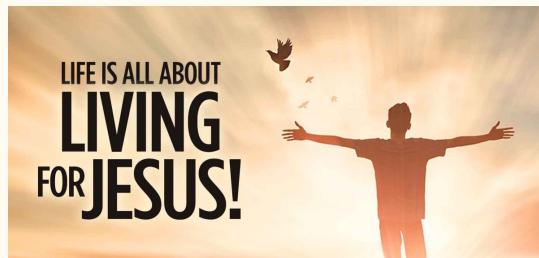


# *St. Henry Catholic Church*

## Faith, Hope, & Encouragement for Mission

Fr. Andrie



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## Making Disciples

- **Matthew 28:19-20:** 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 behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”
- The Church’s **mission** is to spread the Gospel, inviting all people to know and love Jesus Christ. The Church does this in three primary ways: evangelization, education, and serving the poor.

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## Evangelization

- **Evangelization:** Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His teachings to bring us into communion with God.
- It is important to be able to share the Good News in a succinct way. There are certain critical elements when sharing the Good News of Christ.



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## Evangelization ~ God's Story

Step	Explanation
<b>Act I:</b> God's Creation	God creates the world in freedom and love and wills that we live in friendship with Him.
<b>Act II:</b> Fall of man	There was a rebellion against God, introducing division, violence, sin, injustice, and darkness.
<b>Act III:</b> Jewish People	God chose a very particular people, the Jewish people, blessing them with the Patriarchs, the Ten Commandments, Mosaic Law, and the prophets to begin fixing the problem of sin, division, and darkness.
<b>Act IV:</b> Jesus Christ (Supernova)	God fulfills all His promises and reveals the depths of his love via the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Forgiveness of sin and friendship are offered in Christ.

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## Evangelization ~ God's Story

Step	Explanation
<b>Act V:</b> Church & New Covenant	The Church is the Body of Christ, i.e., Christ's presence in the world and the instrument of grace and love for the salvation of human beings.
<b>Act VI:</b> Christ's Second Coming	Christ will come again for the Final Judgment, raising the dead, defeating evil, and to establish His eternal kingdom.
<b>Act VII:</b> Heaven (Eternal Sabbath)	God will bless and reward those who love and suffer for Him in a state of perfect, eternal happiness of communion with the Holy Trinity, Mary, the angels, and the saints.

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## Evangelization ~ Personal

Step	Explanation
God loves you and has a plan	God takes the initiative and desires a relationship with you
Sin is real and is destructive	Sin separates us from God, one another, and leads to dissatisfaction, addiction, and bondage
Jesus came to save you	Christ reopens the way to the Father and the fulfillment of the desires of our heart
Repent and believe	A radical reorientation of life, turning from sin to Christ.
Baptism and the Holy Spirit	Washes sins, incorporates you into Christ, and brings you into the Church – the family of God.
Abide in Christ and the Church	We are healed, forgiven, nourished, and strengthened in Christ via the Church
Go make disciples	Share Christ with others, including what He has done for you and family

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## Catechesis

- Once we have encountered Christ and come into communion with Him, we must deepen our knowledge of and love for Him via worship, prayer, belief, and service.
- Our relationship with Christ must be integrated into every aspect of our life. We must educate the mind (knowledge), form the heart (trust), and guide the will (action) in the Catholic faith.
- Catechists (teachers) are called to transmit the faith by word and example, leading others to Christ.

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## Service to the Poor

- The Church makes a special commitment to the poor and vulnerable, seeing this mission as serving Christ Himself.
- This service includes providing food (pantries, meals), clothing, shelter, proper housing, disaster relief, senior programs, etc.
- The Church's saints (e.g., St. Francis of Assisi and Mother Teresa) saw service to the poor as essential to Christ's mission and a powerful way to share the gospel message.

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## Church's Mission

- **Evangelization:** Casting the net for new fish
- **Catechesis:** Caring for the fish that have been caught.
- **Serving the Poor:** Looking out for the fish that are struggling.



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## Faith and Mission

- Faith is a supernatural gift from God. We assent to what God has revealed (intellect) and make a personal commitment, trust, and reliance on Him (will).
- Faith is personal (I believe) but lived out communally with other baptized believers in the Church.
- Faith revolves not in a set of ideas or personal values, but rather in a Person, Jesus Christ, who is true God and true Man, and the source of salvation and truth.

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## Hope and Mission

- Like faith, hope is a theological virtue (rooted in God) and a gift from God that enables us to trust that we will obtain what God has promised, i.e., eternal life and union with God in heaven. Pope Benedict XVI: "The one who hopes lives differently."
- Hope is nourished and strengthened by prayer, Sacred Scripture (God's Word), the sacraments, and reflecting on the lives of the saints.
- Hope has traditionally been symbolized by an anchor as it holds the soul steady during abandonment, dryness in prayer, and times of suffering.

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## Encouragement and Mission

- Encouragement is a vital part of Christian life. Christians are called to encourage one another in faith, strengthening each other's resolve to follow Christ (2 Cor. 1:3-4).
- Encouragement is a spiritual gift from God, helping people to persist in their walk with Christ.
- Encouragement helps Catholics see their sufferings in light of Christ, i.e., as a way to unite more deeply with Christ's sacrifice.
- Finally, Catholics find encouragement in Christ's promise that "I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20).

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## Top Saint Quotes

- **St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)**: "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world". She also taught, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."
- **St. Francis Xavier**: "Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians". He also urged others to "give up their small ambitions and come eastward to preach the gospel of Christ."
- **St. Thérèse of Lisieux**: "I would be a missionary, not for a few years only, but from the beginning of creation until the consummation."

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