

FRAMEWORK FOR INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

- The Church “exists in order to evangelize”, and the “task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church.” ([14] EN)
- Evangelization is “the process by which the Church, moved by the Spirit, proclaims and spreads the Gospel throughout the entire world.” ([48] GDC)
- Stages are not unique and may be repeated. ([49] GDC) Especially Stages 5-7 which takes place throughout and repeatedly in life.



Road to Emmaus

7 Stages in the Process of Evangelization / Discipleship



Missionary Activity to Unconverted (Stages 1-3)

- *Missionary activity* directed towards: (1) *The unbaptized* (mission *ad gentes*) and (2) *The baptized* (New Evangelization). ([49]), [58], GDC)
- “New evangelization cannot supplant or be substituted for ‘the mission *ad gentes*,’ which continues to be the paradigm and primary task of missionary activity.” ([59] GDC)

STAGE 1 - WITNESS Pre-Evangelization

Witness amongst people of the new and Christian way of being and living, including dialogue and charity. ([47]-[48] GDC). By word and deed.

STAGE 2 - PROCLAIM Initial Evangelization

First or primary (explicit) proclamation of the Gospel (the *Kerygma*) and the call to conversion. ([47]-[48], [51], [61] GDC)

STAGE 3 - CONVERT Initial Conversion

“Initial” conversion to Jesus Christ and becoming His *disciple*. Involves a change of life (*metanoia*), a profound transformation of mind and heart, and a “permanent commitment” to think, judge, and live like Christ. ([53], [55]-[56] GDC)

7 Stages in the Process of Evangelization / Discipleship



Pastoral Activity of Discipleship (Stages 4-7)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary link between missionary & pastoral activity. ([64] GDC) 	<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 4 - CATECHESIZE Initiatory Catechesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “[I]nitial catechetical activity for those who choose the Gospel and for those who need to complete or modify their initiation.” ([49] GDC) • Conversion as pre-condition of fruitful catechesis. ([61]-[62] GDC) • Characteristics: (1) A comprehensive and systematic formation in the faith; (2) An apprenticeship of the entire Christian life; (3) A “complete Christian initiation” which promotes an authentic following of Christ; (4) A basic and essential formation centered on what constitutes the nucleus of Christian experience. ([67] GDC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogical journey/ relationship with a spiritual director/mentor (throughout Stages 4-7). Applying principles of learning/ discipline, humility/ receptivity, imitation, transference (identity), selection, accompaniment, observation, seeing, empowerment, delegation. • Committed to authentic community (shared prayer, learning, fellowship & mission). 	<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 5 - ADHERE Adherence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhering to Christ. Continuing and Life-long conversion. Grow and change from child into the “perfect man”, to maturity in the fullness of Christ. ([56] GDC) • Led by the Spirit, progressing incrementally from purgative way of beginners, to illuminative way of proficient, to unitive way of the perfect. • Growing in theological and cardinal (and other) virtues. Avoiding sin, removing vices, detachment & proper stewardship of material possessions. Cruciformity. Universal call to holiness. • Abiding <i>in</i> and <i>with</i> Christ daily in His Word and in prayer. Loving and receiving frequently the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist (source & summit). Devoted to our Lady. • Evidenced by good works & fruits of the Spirit, especially love of God, Church and neighbor. A person of the Beatitudes.
	<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 6 - FORM Ongoing Formation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing education or formation in the faith, permanent catechesis, or perfective catechesis. ([51], [69]-[71] GDC) • A systematic deepening of the Christian message by means of theological instruction. ([71] GDC) • Necessary to have a Christian community which welcomes the initiated, sustains them and forms them in the faith. ([69] GDC) • Necessary for pastors to form genuine Christian communities. Christian community life must be educated carefully. ([86] GDC) • Also form leaders, disciple-makers, spiritual-makers.
	<p style="text-align: center;">STAGE 7 - SEND Missionary Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelization “continuously arouses <i>mission</i>, sending all the disciples of Christ to proclaim the Gospel, by word and deed throughout the whole world.” ([48] GDC) • A life marked by servanthood and testimony (witness/proclaim). • Mission in: (1) <i>The Church</i> (different ecclesial services, in 1 or more of the 7 stages of evangelization); and (2) <i>The World</i>, i.e. to be present as Christians in society through their professional, cultural and social lives [and at home]. ([86] GDC) • Exercising charisms of the Spirit. • <i>Missionary disciples</i> ([120] EG), with <i>missionary spirituality</i> ([87]-[91] RM) in an <i>evangelizing community</i> ([24] EG). • Becoming a leader, disciple-maker or even a spiritual-multiplier.