

Hope

Heart for Evangelization

The passionate vision of evangelization revealed to Fr. Bob Bedard remains vibrant, and we invite you to join us in meditating on the key attitudes of a truly evangelical heart. It is our hope that together we will be inspired and encouraged to share the hope we have found in Christ to those present in our daily lives.

“Missionary drive has always been a sign of vitality... missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!” — John Paul II

Please join us as we continue on our journey of transformation and renewal!

*“Only God can touch and capture a human heart.”
— Fr. Bob Bedard*

Dear Friends in Christ,

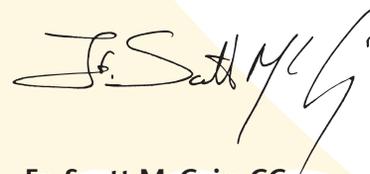
Our mission of evangelization begins in the heart of God the Father, who sent his Son to save all people. Jesus shares his heart with us by pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts and on the whole Church to continue his saving work. Our beloved Founder, Fr. Bob Bedard, describes evangelization as

“... a proclamation of the good news of Christ in such a way as to elicit a positive response from the hearer, so that the Holy Spirit can take over and transform the person from within. It is the power of God going to work and doing what God does best – capturing a human heart for himself, causing someone to fall in love with him, which is what he wants.” (Fr. Bob Bedard)

The Church is renewed one heart at a time. You are called to be witnesses – one to another, always seeking to share the heart of Christ. *“It is not enough to discover Christ, you must bring Him to others!” (John Paul II)*

I invite you to delve deeper into the heart of Jesus, and to share his heart with the people around you.

In Christ,



Fr. Scott McCaig, CC
Moderator (General Superior)

* Hear Fr. Scott McCaig speak on *‘Developing an Evangelical Heart’*
www.thenewevangelist.com

Boldness

Developing an Evangelical Heart

The Heart

“The heart is the dwelling place where I am, where I live...The heart is our hidden center...only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision... It is a place where we choose life or death. It is a place of encounter, because as the image of God we live in relation: it is the place of the covenant.” (CCC 2563)

The human heart is the very hub of our being where God dwells. From this hub God can touch and transform every aspect of our lives. It is his command post from which he wishes to go out to the whole world.

An Evangelical Heart is...

- A heart that has been touched by the love of God
- A heart that has said yes to God and is being transformed by the Spirit
- A heart that is inflamed with a desire to continue the mission of Jesus
- A heart which desires others to receive the same gift, desires to evangelize, not just to fulfill a duty, but to share a gift
- A gift from God – not something we can achieve by our own efforts – God shares his heart with us.

Do we have God’s heart for people?

Receiving the Heart of Jesus

- **Jesus had a heart totally consumed by love for God the Father and for every person on the face of the earth.** Jesus was moved by people and their situations:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.” (Isaiah 61:1-2)

- *“When Jesus, hanging on the Cross said, ‘I thirst’, he was thirsting for souls.” (Blessed Mother Teresa)*

Attitudes of an Evangelical Heart

- 1) **Loves as Jesus Did** (Charity, Servanthood, Humility, Mercy)
- 2) **Led by the Spirit** (Docility, Boldness, Unity, Hope)
- 3) **Lives the Beatitudes** (Authenticity, Joy, Peace, Purity)

Developing an Evangelical Heart

To develop an evangelical heart, we must draw near to the heart of Jesus, aflame with love, until we are consumed by his love. Jesus had a burning desire to touch lives – he wants us to spread his love like a blazing fire. *“I have come to set a fire upon earth and how I wish it were already blazing!” (Luke 12:49)*

- **Prayer** – Be filled by his love so that, like a chalice, we can pour out his love to others. *“O Jesus meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto yours.”*
- **Scripture** – Meditate on Scripture passages that exemplify the attitude in which you are seeking to grow. *“The Word of God is living and effective... able to discern the reflections and thoughts of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)*
- **Sacraments** – Invite everyone to the banquet of the Lamb. *“...invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame... Go out into the streets and the lanes and make the people come in, so that my house may be full.” (Luke 14:21b-23)*
- **Fellowship** – Spend time with Christians who are evangelizing. *“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)*
- **Service** – Serve Christ in the poor. We find life by dying to self; we become fully ourselves by making a sincere gift of ourselves; and we receive most when we give. *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)*
- **Mission** – Take advantage of every opportunity to evangelize. *“Have the courage to speak about Christ, to bear witness to your faith through a lifestyle inspired by the Gospel.” (John Paul II)*

These are excerpts from the Companions Lay Formation course on 'Evangelization', available through our office.