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About Saint Paul Street Evangelization

St. Paul Street Evangelization (SPSE) is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking the Catholic Faith to the streets. Christ’s call to evangelize was made to every Catholic Christian, and the Second Vatican Council reiterated this need, urging each of the baptized to bring the Gospel, found fully in the Catholic Church, to a culture that has largely reverted to paganism. As an on-the-street Catholic evangelization organization, St. Paul Street Evangelization provides an avenue for people to share the Person of Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith with a hungry culture.

Founded in May 2012, St. Paul Street Evangelization provides the tools and resources for Catholics to engage the culture in a simple, non-confrontational method of evangelization which involves making themselves available to the public to answer questions about the faith and to pray with those who request it. SPSE has been blessed with tremendous growth and now has teams throughout the United States and the world.

But a person might ask, “How can lay people evangelize the Catholic faith so publicly? Isn’t that the job of priests and bishops?” The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, ‘that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life.’ For lay people, ‘this evangelization acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world’” (CCC 905). As a non-profit Catholic organization, St. Paul Street Evangelization works in cooperation and obedience to the Catholic Church and Her Magisterium.

Armed with a simple sign, pamphlets and Rosaries, SPSE evangelists take to the streets, going wherever people are gathered – on a street corner, at a festival, or even at a football game. Our teams always begin in prayer. Unlike some forms of street evangelization which seek to forcibly proselytize those passing by (for example, by yelling, displaying confrontational signs, or preaching loudly), SPSE employs a non-confrontational method rooted in joy, maintaining a peaceful presence and evangelizing through conversation. Initial contact usually takes place by the offer of prayer or a free rosary.

St. Paul Street Evangelization has found this non-confrontational approach to be very effective at strengthening the faith of practicing Catholics, bringing back into the Faith fallen away Catholics, and clearing up misconceptions about the Faith held by non-Catholics. It is the mission of SPSE to work with God for the conversion of the whole world to the Catholic faith. SPSE evangelists seek to plant seeds, till the soil, make sure the people they talk to know that they are loved, and reap the harvest in God’s time. Our motto is “to listen, befriend, proclaim the Gospel, and invite” a person to conversion, prayer, and community.

The goal of St. Paul Street Evangelization is not to win arguments but to share the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting culture that is seeking truth. SPSE recognizes that to be an effective witness for Christ and His Church, one must seek to live a holy life. As Pope Paul VI wrote in Evangeli Nuntiandi, “For the Church, the first means of evangelization is the witness of an authentically Christian life … ‘Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses’” (sec. 41). To this end, SPSE is looking for intentional disciples who are ready to become missionary disciples. When out on the streets, the evangelists of SPSE share the hope that is in them so that the world sees the salvation of God through the Church that He founded.

We dare to evangelize not because we have done any great thing, but because God has done a great work in us, and for that, we are humbled. A person does not need to be a theologian or professional apologist to be an effective evangelist. He only needs to have a heart for Jesus Christ and His Church and be willing to share it with others.

Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious… What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being the Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man… he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything… In him we live and move and have our being.”

— SAINT PAUL PREACHES TO THE ATHENIANS

ACCTS 17:22-28

Resources and Training for Evangelists:

- **Team Development and Coordination** — Visit the SPSE website to find a team near you. If there is not a team in your area, or if you would prefer to start a new one of your own, SPSE will help you coordinate your efforts with other local evangelists and provide all of the resources and information that you need to get started.
- **Training and Certification Courses** — SPSE offers live and online courses including Basic Evangelization Training, Healing in Evangelization training, Small Group training, Fr. John Hardon’s Basic Catholic Catechism Course, and more. We offer a certification program for those who complete the courses online or in person and spend time evangelizing on the street. We encourage all Catholics to take our courses, even if you do not intend to be a street evangelist. It will help equip you to reach others in the circumstances of your own life.
- **Materials for local teams** — SPSE provides signs, Rosaries, Miraculous Medals, CDs, business card templates, and other materials to local teams in its highly-discounted Partner Store.
- **Free printable pamphlets** — Teams have access to more than 30 pamphlets on the Catholic faith that will help them with their evangelization efforts.
- **Website** — Every local team is provided with a free website to help the members to coordinate their efforts.
- **Multiple Approaches** — We help coordinate different types of street teams including traditional SPSE teams, Prayer Station teams, Door to door teams, and seeker small group teams. Learn more about these teams on our website.
- **Regional Missionaries** — SPSE offers an annual leadership institute for those who want to take a more active role in the apostolate as regional missionaries. Regional missionaries serve their local communities by supporting local street teams, offering talks and workshops on evangelization, and serving as a liaison between the local church and SPSE. Some regional missionaries go on to become full-time urban missionaries or local directors of street teams.
- **Prayer Warrior Group** — Evangelists can rely on the support of our prayer group of hundreds of Catholics who intercede for their intentions and their work on the streets.
- **Apologetics Group** — Evangelists can sharpen their apologetics skills by joining thousands of other Catholics in the SPSE apologetics group on Facebook.

**Get Involved Today!**