



LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

To whom this may concern,

In the Church, there are many worthwhile efforts being made to further the New Evangelization heralded by Pope Saint John Paul II. Among these, I enthusiastically recommend the work of St. Paul Street Evangelization. "SPSE" helps Catholics bring the gospel of Jesus Christ from our churches into our communities, where it meets people of all walks of life who in one way or another hunger for God. Lapsed Catholics, Protestants seeking more, non-Christians starving for truth – all of these are reached by the apostolate.

For deacons the Catholic Church has two documents with magisterial teaching authority that directs and guides the diaconate throughout the universal church, and they are the Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons and the Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons. Both of these official Church documents mention how important the new evangelization is to the ordained; "Contemporary society requires a new evangelization which demands a greater and more generous effort on the part of ordained ministers" (Directory no. 26). The Basic Norms also mention it as part of formation, "It is particularly urgent today, in the face of the challenge of the new evangelization to which the Church is called at this difficult juncture of the millennium" (79).

The St. Paul Street Evangelization workshop provides the intellectual formation mentioned in the Directory; "Such courses, while aimed at theological renewal, should also lead to prayer, ecclesial communion and greater pastoral efforts in response to the urgent need for new evangelization" (72). The workshop does not leave the instruction at the intellectual formation but takes it into the pastoral area by actively showing the men in formation and the ordained how to evangelize in the streets as the Directory recommends; "The deacon will be aware that the Church is missionary by her very nature, both because her origin is in the missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, according to the eternal plan of the Father and because she has received an explicit mandate from the risen Lord to preach the Gospel to all creation and to baptize those who believe (cf. Mk 16, 15-16; Mt 28:19). Deacons are ministers of the Church and they are not exempt from the missionary obligation of the universal Church (27).

The ordained and those in formation cannot continue to ignore, overlook, or disregard the call to the New Evangelization. We have to be trained intellectually, spiritually, and pastorally to go in search of the lost sheep, and SPSE provides it all. Formators across the country need to give SPSE great importance as the Basic Norms mentions when it speaks about the New Evangelization, "Religious indifference, obscuring of values, loss of ethical convergence, and cultural pluralism demand that those involved in the ordained ministry have an intellectual formation which is complete and serious" (79). Similarly, the Directory states, "Deacons should always be appreciative of all those initiatives for the ongoing formation of the clergy...They should avail themselves of such initiatives especially when they concern their own ministry of evangelization" (82).

SPSE does not evangelize by bible thumping, guilt, and condemnation but by attraction as Pope Benedict XVI says and is also mentioned in Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*. I personally saw them teach our men in formation how to be the Gentle Shepherd that sinners encountered in the gospel. They fully embody the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.



SOMETHING GOES HERE

Having experienced their training (which they provided in both the English and Spanish languages), and having participated in their work, I am happy to give my endorsement to St. Paul Street Evangelization.

In Christ,

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