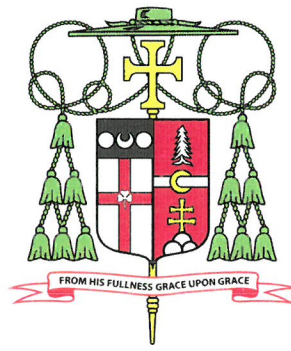


**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**



4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111-3710
Bishop'sOffice@hbgdiocese.org
(717) 657-4804 ext. 354
www.hbgdiocese.org

August 4, 2021

Memorial of Saint John Vianney

Dear Brother Priest,

In his 1975 Apostolic Exhortation, *On Evangelization in the Modern World*, Pope Saint Paul VI famously wrote: “Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize”.

While we know this to be true, we are often unsure what to do about evangelization. For this reason I am welcoming *St. Paul Street Evangelization* (SPSE) to the Diocese. Since its inception, it has proven to be a practical and effective way to realize ‘the grace and vocation proper to the Church’. SPSE is an apostolate that will help train and empower the laity to be evangelizers.

The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis will host an in-person SPSE training on Saturday, October 23, 2021, from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish (St. Mary’s), in Lancaster. Adam Janke, President of SPSE, who lives in Michigan will conduct the training. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am. Immediately following the training at 4 pm, there will be a “lab experience” at the Lancaster City Square for those wishing to put their Saint Paul Street Evangelization coaching into action.

This apostolate has proven to be especially effective in helping those who

- Have grown lax in their practice of the Catholic Faith
- Have stopped practicing the Faith completely
- Have never been Catholic and are “prospective Catholics” just needing to be invited
- Have been practicing Catholics, but seek to be better equipped and more fervent in the Faith.

SPSE provides practical training for parish evangelization teams and individual members of the laity to witness to the Faith in the public square and to build bridges within local parishes through door-to-door evangelization, prayer stations, festival evangelization, and various other works. The training is oriented toward a hands-on, “shoe-leather-to-the-sidewalk” experience. The SPSE method emphasizes that evangelization is the vocation of all the baptized.

August 4, 2021
Page Two

SPSE's methods look to Jesus' own approach in forming His first evangelizers. By engaging in the work of evangelization, Catholics become more fully evangelized themselves. They gain a deeper understanding and a more fervent love of their Faith when they share the Faith with spiritual fervor in a non-confrontational manner.

My hope is that you would enlist some parishioners and/or parish staff to attend the Saint Paul Street Evangelization training on October 23rd. All priests, deacons, and religious are warmly welcome. The registration fee is \$10 which includes a lunch. Clergy and religious can attend free of charge.

For more information and to register please contact Jim Gontis at jgontis@hbgdiocese.org.

May Christ abundantly bless this initiative and allow it to bear much fruit for our local Church.

Fraternally yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer