



Recognizing Roadblocks

Here is a list of challenges or obstacles to evangelization that you encounter face in a parish. Circle the things that you believe are real concerns. Cross off items that you believe are not important.

1. The parish does not believe in the value or need for evangelization.
2. The parish does not know how-to evangelize.
3. The parish has experienced failure or discouragement in trying to evangelize and stopped trying.
4. The parish is afraid of the cost of evangelization in terms of time or money.
5. The parish is so busy meeting current needs that they cannot even think about evangelization.
6. The parish uses the same evangelization programs that worked in the past whether or not they still work.
7. The parish doesn't need or want new people. They are comfortable the way they are.
8. The parish fears that evangelization will force them to deal with people that look, speak, think, or worship differently than they do.
9. The parish doesn't have time to deal with the problems new people will bring to the church.
10. The parish only wants people who come every Sunday and give generously.
11. The parish staff is stretched too thin trying to maintain the parish. They don't want anything extra.
12. The parish is too weak, poor, angry, depressed, or emotionally deprived to evangelize others.
13. The parish believes that if a few people in the parish work harder, longer, better, and smarter, they will succeed in Catholic evangelization.
14. The parish leaders don't want to change their ways or allow others to implement new ideas.
15. All of the parish resources (time, money, personnel, and buildings) are used with other ministries.
16. The parish doesn't need or want any more training, study or prayer for evangelization.
17. The parish lacks living relationships with God, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
18. Another obstacle or challenge the parish faces is... (Please be specific): _____

Reflection Questions:

1. What surprised you in this list of challenges or obstacles to Catholic evangelization? Why?
2. What do you consider the **three most difficult** challenges or obstacles to evangelization? Why?
3. What are some ways you could overcome these challenges and obstacles?
4. What statements did you cross out because **you don't believe** they are challenges or obstacles? Why?