

Orthodox Evangelization Initiative

Planning in Progress

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Goals

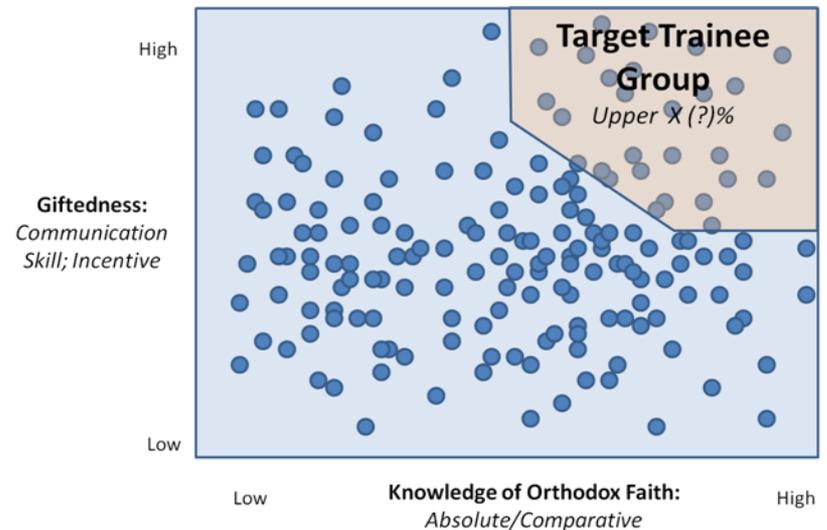
- Develop materials that can be and are used by Orthodox Christians for developing better skills for Evangelization
- So that we:
 - Share the good news of the Gospel
 - Help the parishes to grow



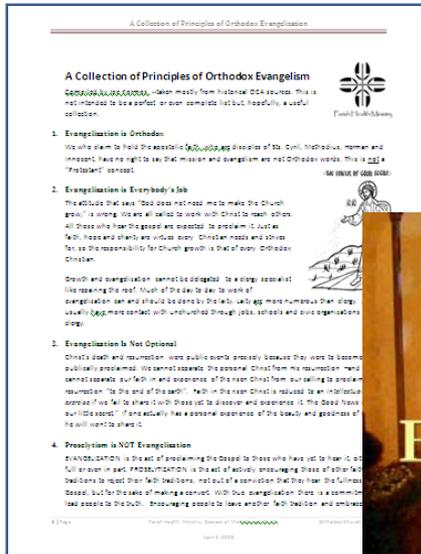
Audience

- Persons
 - Knowledgeable Laity
 - The primary audience is knowledgeable lay persons who have potential gifts for being effective at evangelization and are reasonably knowledgeable in the Orthodox faith. These materials are not a catechism in Orthodox Christianity.
 - Clergy
 - Many of the skills covered in the materials will be valuable to clergy as well.
 - Many clergy will want to lead their parishes in exploring this material
 - Some materials should probably be created for use by clergy only
- Parishes
 - These materials will be of primary value in parishes that are reasonably healthy and vibrant. Parishes in serious decline probably need to focus in other areas.

Evangelization Training Audience



Potential Material Formats



**Documents -
for continuing
reference**

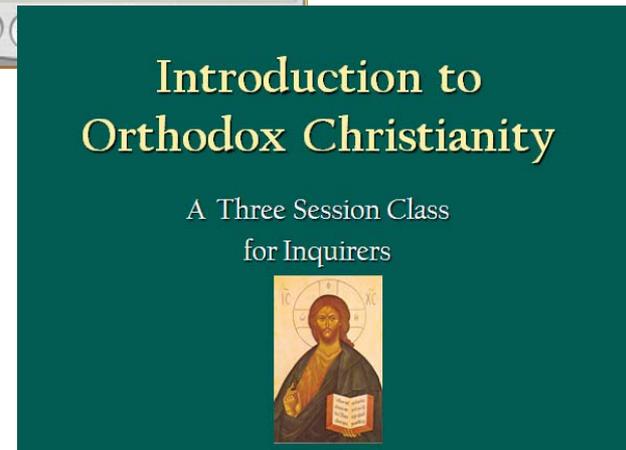


**Videos – scripted edited -
6-12 minutes – tell a
foundational story**



“Videolets”

- 1-3 minute testimonials
- word of mouth
- “how to” - learn by seeing



PowerPoint

Slides, scripted, recorded

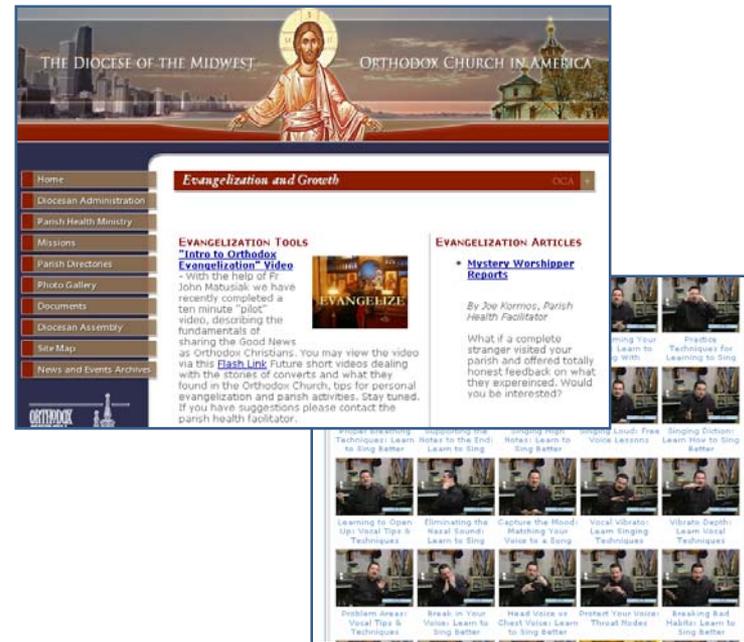


How will this material be used/delivered?



Group Training

- Parish Workshops
- Deanery Workshops
- Diocesan Conference



Website

- Personal study /use
- Class prep/brush up



How will this material be used/delivered?

- This is still under discussion.
- Potentially:
 - Personal study
 - Ad hoc/self study materials used (viewed or read) by persons – not necessarily as part of a parish initiative.
 - A series of classes taught in a parish, or a Deanery by:
 - The priest or a deacon
 - a Diocesan or regional specialist trainer
 - Combination of the above supported with various videos and other materials
 - A combination of parish and self study
- A diocesan conference on this topic
 - Single event or annual



Group training

- Parish Workshops
- Deanery Workshops
- Conference

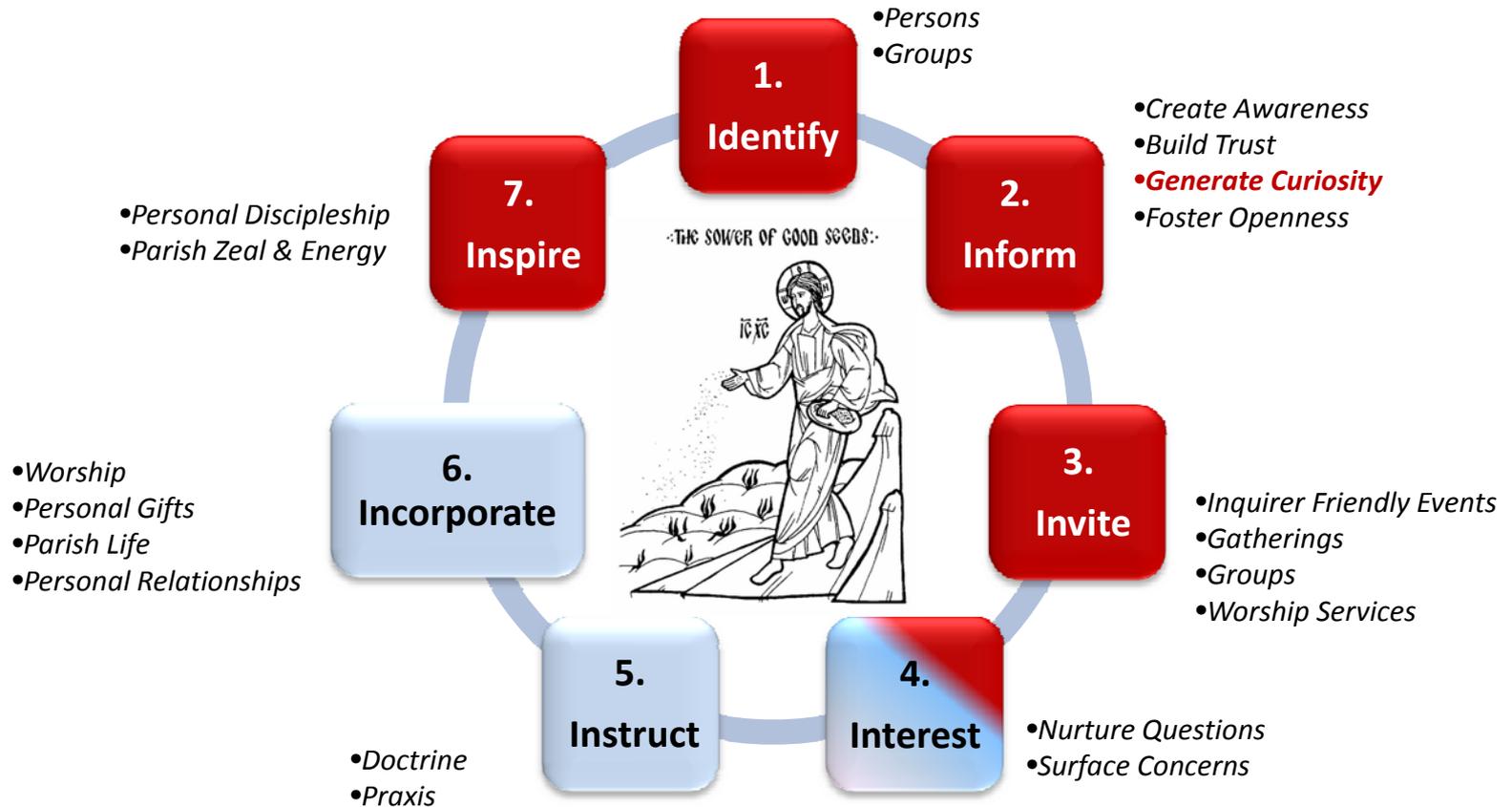


Website

- Personal study /use



Proposed Orthodox Parish Evangelization & Growth Cycle



Topics/areas to be covered in Evangelization Training

Topics/areas that will NOT be covered in Evangelization Training

Orthodox Evangelization Toolbox

Generating Curiosity



Personal Tools & Skills

- “Being Nice” – Love & Kindness
- Personal Narrative
- Conversion Stories & References
- Active Listening
- Helpful Probing
- Situational Fluency
- Comparative Knowledge



Parish Tools & Skills

- Evangelization & Growth Cycle
- Focus: Understanding the religious landscape in your community
- Annual growth planning
- Inquirer Event Development
- Awareness/ “Findability” Tactics
- Strengths Assessment

 Pre-requisites – A reasonable knowledge & application of Orthodox Doctrine and Practice

Pre-requisites – A reasonably vibrant parish that lives a life in Christ and is striving to improve

Building the Orthodox Evangelization Toolbox

Potential Course Outline

Each box could be a session

Overview

- Goals - *toolbox to generate curiosity (more)*
- Orthodox evang. Problem – RC/Evangelical methods do not necessarily work
- Framework – the cycle
- What we're NOT doing
- Barriers
- Principles of Orthodox Evangelization
- Evangelization video
- Course Outline

Blue boxes offer a more parish planning focus

Targeting/Focus areas

- Aden stuff --Religious landscape of America
- Discerning your parish's evangelization focus

Tool 1 -- Just Be Nice

- Review
- Before we grow we need to stop driving people away
- Video: bad behavior
- Turnoffs

Tool 2 a Narrative Tune Up

Students share
Pair up practice delivery
Tune up tips

Tool 2 - Personal Narrative

- Why story telling; elements of a good story.
- How God has worked in your life
- Video examples
- Narrative outline
- Homework – write yours

Parish Evangelization Planning

- Sizing the evangelization effort
- # new persons – to sustain; to grow
- Key constraint – flow (more inquiries) or generating serious interest
- Awareness building target definition
 - Positioning statement
 - Communication

Tool 3 Convert Stories

- Videos of convert stories
- What I found in the Orthodox Church
- How I could have gotten here sooner
- What to do/not to do
- Stuff you never thought of; what's it like to be a visitor
- Homework – Build parish convert stories

Tools 4 –n Other Tools/ Tips

- Situations leading to openness; Cues
- Opening questions
- Establish trust
- What not to do
- Time to move on

Inquirer Friendly Events

- Getting your parish on the map
- Individual events
- On going (e.g. Arseny)
- Planning an inquirers class
- QA nite

Situational Fluency Making the Most of Opportunities

- Friends family
- Situational
- Seasonal

Understanding "Seekers"

- Different approaches different backgrounds
- Key issues; what to be prepared for; points of emphasis
- Catholics, Liturgical Protestants, Evangelicals etc.

Grey boxes focus on personal tools/skills info

