

# Courageously Sharing your Growing Faith with Long Time Friends

**Headline:** A hero shows courage in the face of fear and uncertainty, even when it means sharing your faith. Have you ever wondered how it would be best accomplished to share your growing faith with long- time friends? We are all called to evangelize, but how do go about courageously introducing this to my closest of friends?

**Objective:** You can feel your faith growing. You even enjoy discussing faith in the right company such as Church functions, Father’s Team, conversations with people who you know agree with you, and maybe even in arguments with people who are clearly opposed to your beliefs and very easy to disagree with. But how do you integrate faith into your friendships? How about with friends or family who have left the Catholic Church? Growing faith can create a feeling of contradiction when you are placed in situations and with people that used to be familiar and comfortable. Now you may find that some of those situations do not support your faith and what you have grown to believe. Discerning how to use the gifts your faith has brought and how to integrate this into your relationships can be challenging. The objective of this topic is to uncover some useful ways to share your faith and draw your friends closer to God.

**Song Suggestion:** They Will Know We are Christians By Our Love

## Bible and Catechism Readings:

### John 20: 21-23

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

### Mark 16:15-18

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news<sup>[d]</sup> to the whole creation.<sup>16</sup> The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.<sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;<sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes in their hands,<sup>[e]</sup> and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

### Catechism 905

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.”

### Catechism 2044

The fidelity of the baptized is a primordial condition for the proclamation of the Gospel and for the Church’s mission in the world. In order that the message of salvation can show the power of its truth and radiance before men, it must be authenticated by the witness of the life of Christians. “The witness of a Christian life and good works done in a supernatural spirit have great power to draw men to the faith and to God.”

**Saint:** One notable Catholic saint renowned for evangelization is Saint Francis Xavier. Born in Spain in 1506, Francis Xavier became one of the founding members of the Jesuit order alongside Saint Ignatius of Loyola. His missionary zeal led him to travel extensively, particularly in Asia, where he preached and converted many to Christianity. Francis Xavier is remembered for his tireless efforts in evangelizing in regions such as India, Japan, and Indonesia, where he established numerous churches and schools. His dedication to spreading the Gospel earned him the title "Apostle of the Indies" and made him a significant figure in the history of Catholic evangelization.

**Vignette:**

As the years had passed, Steve's faith had grown deeper and more meaningful. He often found himself reflecting on the spiritual journey he'd embarked upon, and couldn't help but feel compelled to share his newfound joy with his longtime friends, Mark and Tim. Over a cozy dinner one evening, Steve gently broached the topic, explaining how his faith had brought him peace and purpose. To his delight, Mark and Tim listened intently, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their own reflections on spirituality. By the end of the evening, they all felt closer than ever, bonded not just by years of friendship but by a shared exploration of faith and meaning in their lives

**Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:**

Have friends noticed a change in you? Have you had the courage to explain how your faith has grown and helped to improve you as a man, father, and friend?

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Why have you not shared your faith with your long-time friends? What is holding you back?

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Have you considered sharing a book, an article, etc. with these friends to start a conversation?

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**Resources:**

<https://catholicmissionarydisciples.com/news/5-ways-to-be-a-better-evangelist>

**Action Plan:**

Invite one or two friends to Father's team  
Invite a friend to dinner and talk about what is important to them and then you share what is important to you

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