

*How can I lead people to Jesus alive in His Church?*

1. A cardinal rule of evangelism is to be ***concerned about all immortal souls***, including our own. If we are not concerned about our own salvation, how will we lead others to Jesus? Our Savior is risen and alive today in His Church. This is where Jesus Himself wants to bring all people to Eternal Life. Our ancient Church is God's idea. In order to lead others to Jesus we need to be much more single minded about salvation through the Church. Heaven has to be a top priority in our lives. When a lady asked St. John Vianney the best way to heaven, he said, "straight as a cannon ball." That means, don't turn around or zig zag, and do take everyone you meet with you like an energized cannonball.
2. We have often heard it said that the best way to evangelize is by the ***example of our Christian lifestyle***. Pope Pious XII tells us this is an essential first step, but we all also need to look for opportunities to explain our faith-life in words. So, what does this example of Christian lifestyle look like? The ordinary secular American life that many Catholics live is not an inviting reflection of Catholic faith. A truly Catholic lifestyle witnesses to a bold stand against some of the negative values of our society. It calls for an unhidden practice of our faith. Being a private Catholic does not lead others to faith.
3. We need to ***prepare*** to defend our Church and explain its teachings even with unpopular words. As adults we need to continue our study of our faith. We need to rehearse in our minds how to respond in accurate and loving ways. We must learn to deliver this Truth that sets people free, not just win arguments.
4. We need to ***pray regularly*** for worldly friends, neighbors, fellow workers, and family members. Bringing people to Jesus is a work of God. We are simply His instruments. We can not do it without prayer.
5. We must always be ready to ***invite***. Invite people to Holy Mass, to church events, home study sessions, parish missions, and especially to RCIA. It's especially important we ourselves are active in our parish and help make it a happy, vibrant, welcoming, community into which we invite people.