

Basics of Evangelism

·THE SOWER OF GOOD SEEDS·

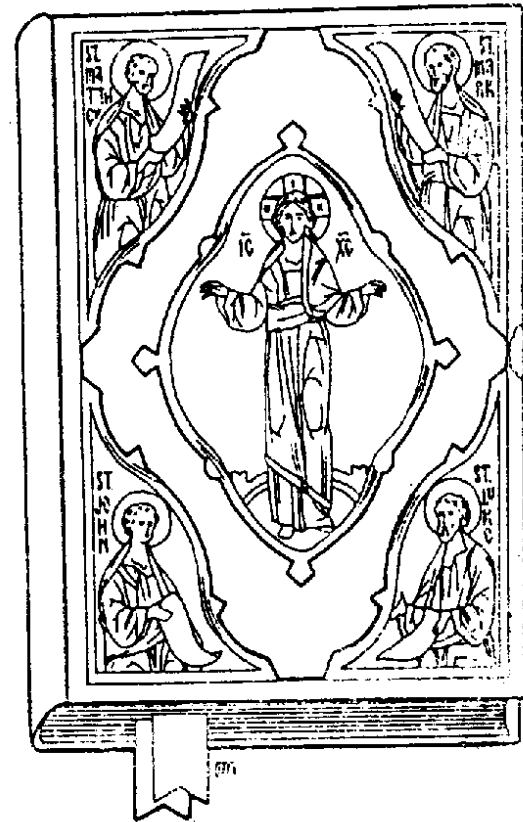


Watering the Branch

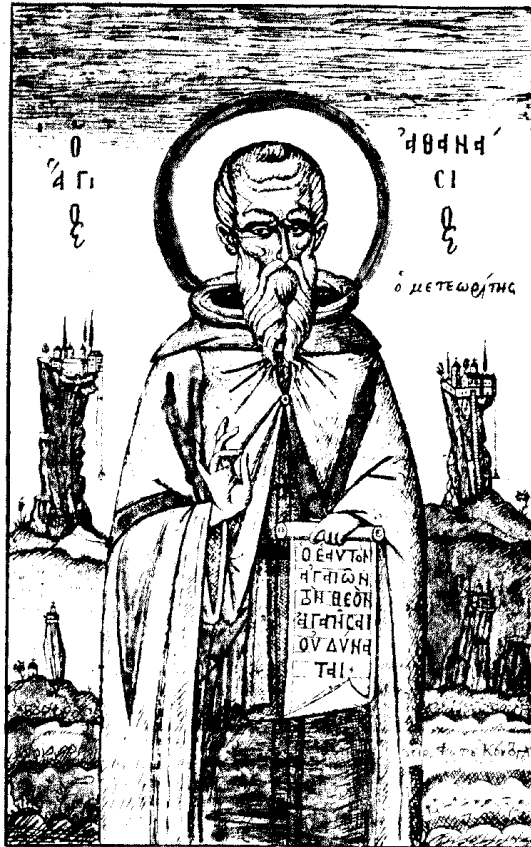


Evangelism is from *Evangelion* which means "Good News"

- Must always present the Gospel
- The heart of the Church's mission
- *"Becomes with us a witness to His Resurrection"*
Acts 1:22



Evangelism is The Church



- “Let us note that from the very tradition, teaching, and faith of the Church which the Lord gave was, from the beginning, preached by the Apostles and preserved by the Fathers. On this the Church was founded... The Lord sent out the Apostles and commanded them to make the foundation of the Church by saying: *“Go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19-20)”*

St. Athanasius



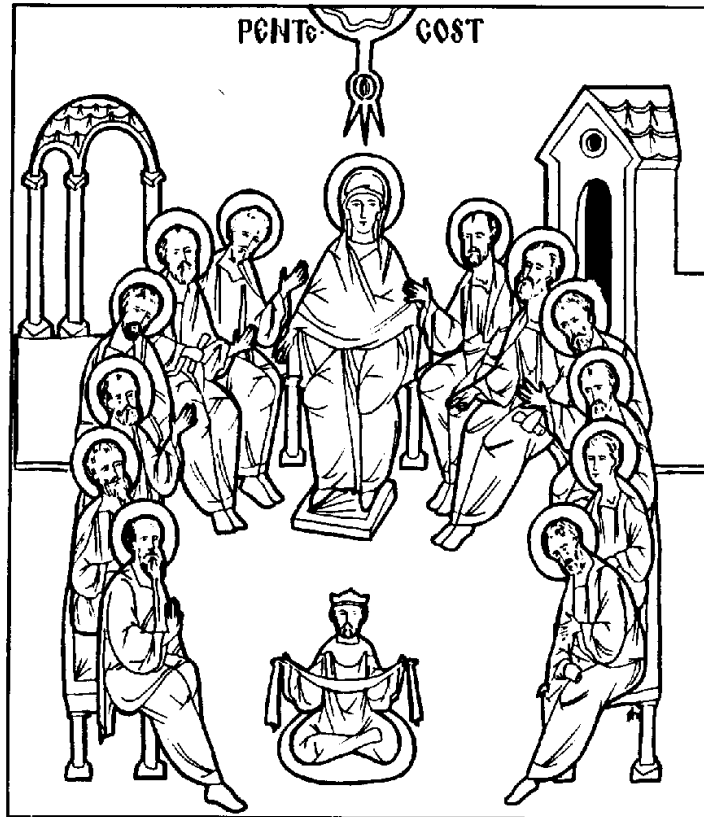
Evangelization is:

- Sharing the Good News
- The utilization and application of our Faith
- The calling of every Orthodox Christian





I am



- Sent to Myself
- Sent to Others
- Sent to the World

Evangelism is:

- “Evangelism implies a witness to the living Trinitarian God, who calls all to salvation and binds human beings together in the Church, who otherwise would not belong to it or have lost their ties to it. This characteristic distinguishes it from mere pastoral care, which is directed towards those already incorporated in to the Church....”

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania



Evangelism is both “external” and “internal”



- Internal in that it grows each of spiritually
- External in that it brings all people to the Gospel

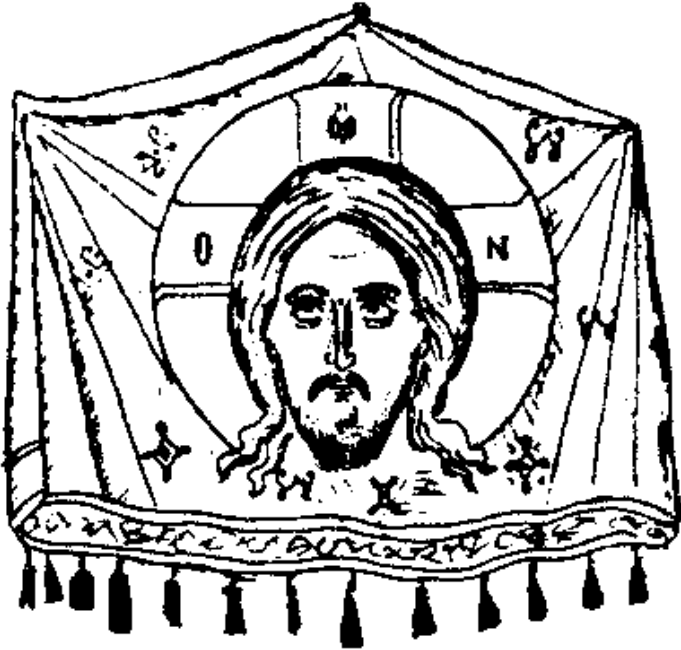
Evangelization is for all

- “But who is to work for the spread of the Orthodox Faith for the increase of the Orthodox Church? Pastors and missionaries, you answer. You are right; but are they to be alone? St. Paul wisely compares the Church of Christ to a body, and the life of a body is shared by all members. So it ought to be in the life of the Church also...The spread of Christ’s faith ought to be near and precious to the heart of every Christian. In this work every member of the Church ought to take a lively and heartfelt interest.”

St. Tikhon of Moscow



Internal Evangelism



- Discipleship
- Stewardship
- Apostleship
- Faithfulness

So where do we start?

- *“For God so loved the world so that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

John 3:16



Where do we continue?



- *The Beatitudes:*
Blessed are the..."
Matthew 5:1-12

Where do we end up?



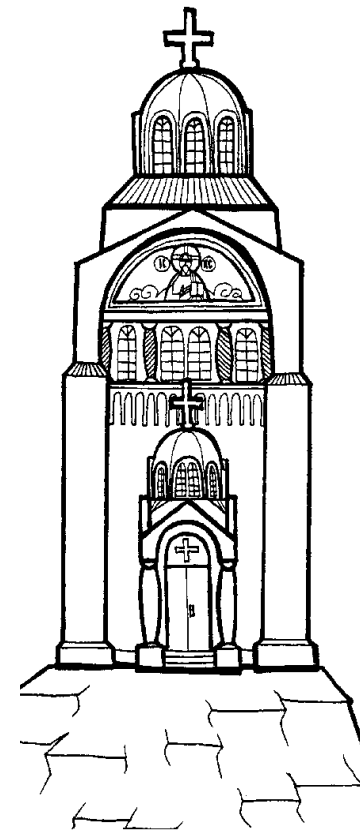
- *“So let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and rejoice.”*

Matthew 5:13-16

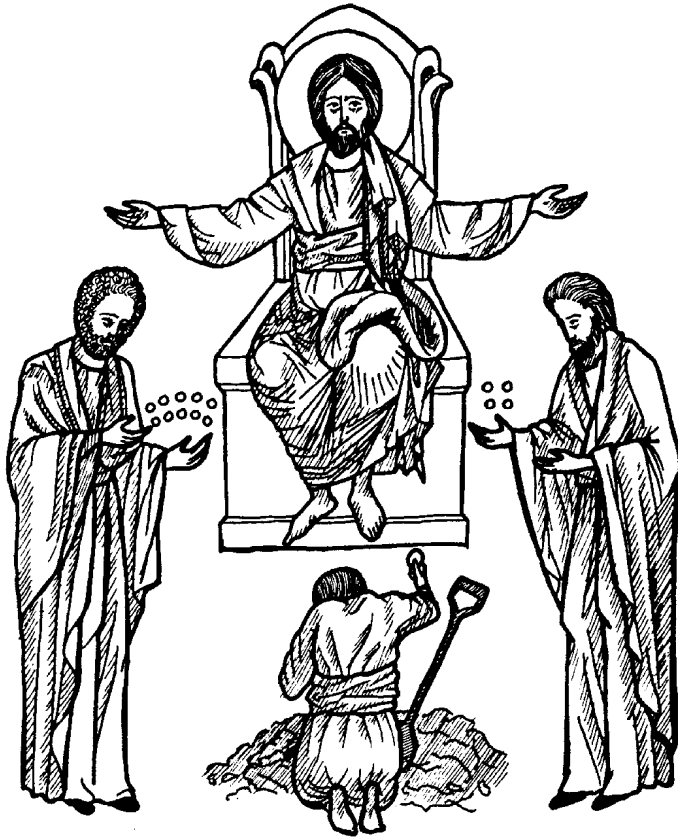
By participating in the Church, we grow ourselves and the Church

- *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock...”*

Matthew 7:24-29



External Evangelism



- Is not what “others” do
- Is not a marketing scheme or gimmick
- Is not just a facet of life in the Church

External Evangelism is:

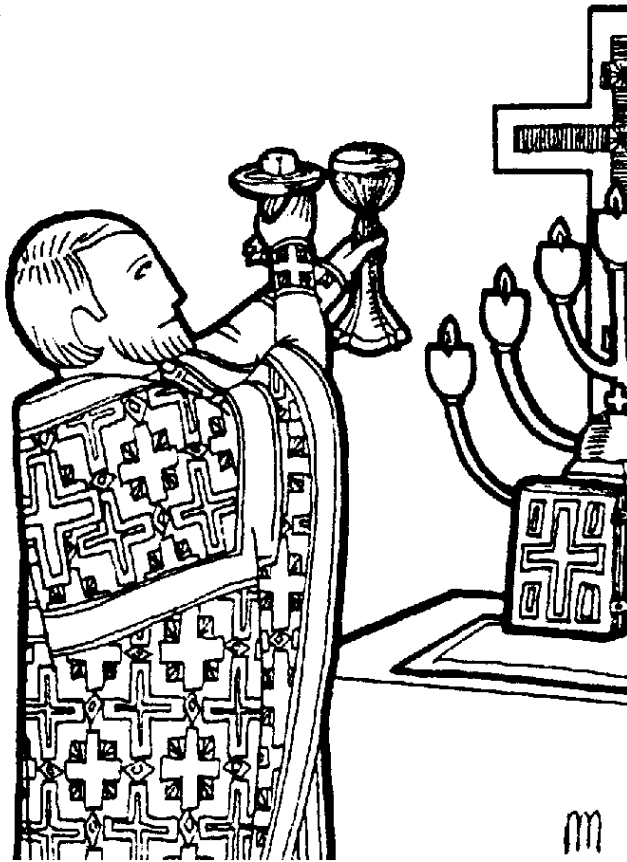
- The very heart and soul of the Church
- *"I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."*

1 Corinthians 9:22





First Things First!



- Be the Church!
- Live the life of the Church!

The Church is the key!



- “It is impossible to speak about our situation in America unless we refer it to our normal and essential term of reference, The Orthodox Church.”

Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

Pray!

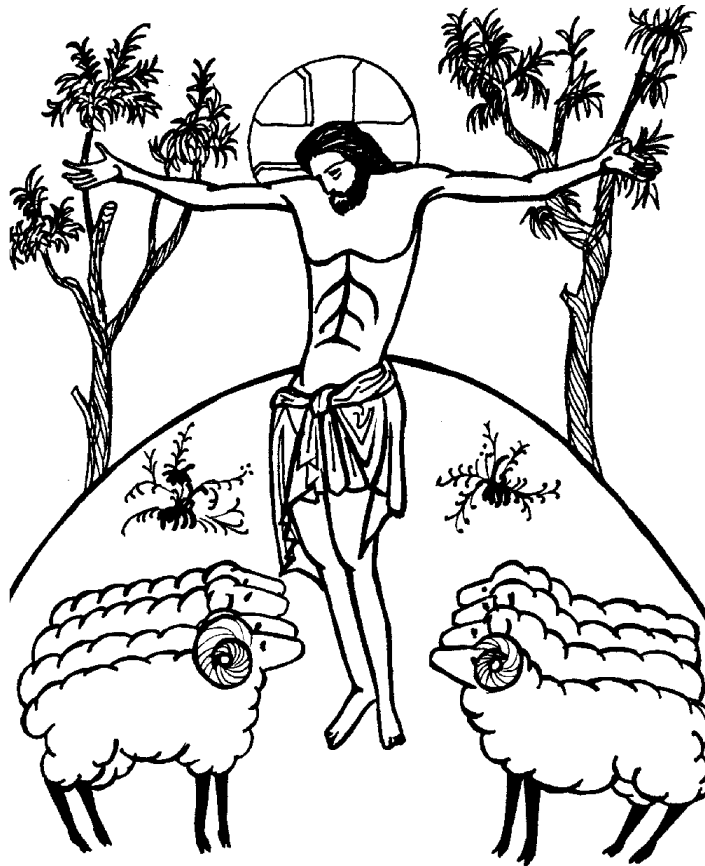
- Without prayer nothing can happen.
- *"Pray without ceasing."*

1 Thessalonians 5:17





Open the doors!



- *"I am the door by me if any man enters, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."*

John 10:9

Who are we reaching?

- The Faithful
- The Lapsed
- The Unchurched

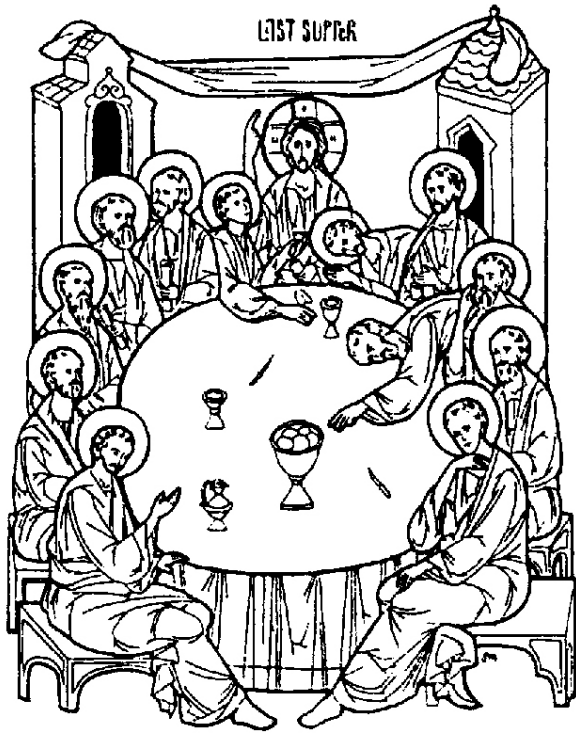


How do we reach them?



- Love! Love!
Love!
- Mixed together with faith, hope and charity.

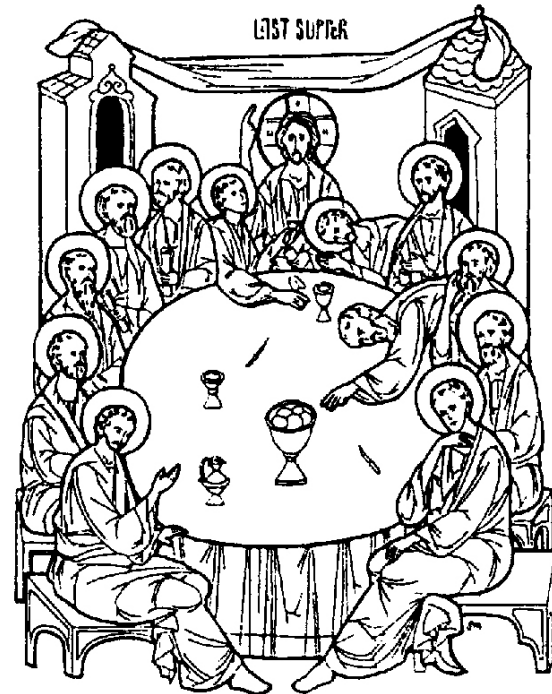
Koinonia



- Common Vision
- Church Community
- Communion

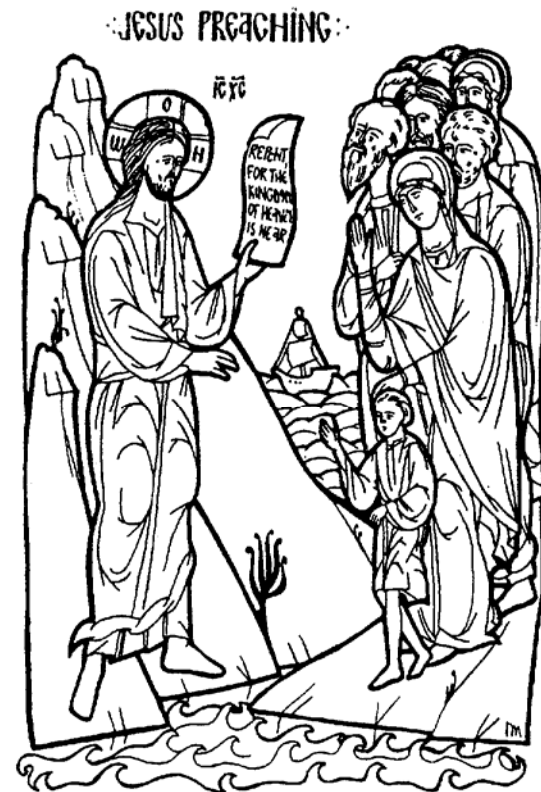
Koinonia (cont)

- “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the communion (*koinonia*), to the breaking of bread and to prayer...All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need...They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.” It is also used in describing the Passover meal and the very act of receiving communion”
- Acts 2:42-47



Koinonia (cont)

- “We used to translate the word *koinonia* in this phrase as communion. Hence, our expression ‘holy communion’, and our lack of wonder at any deep mystery in the phrase or thought. But the word, *koinonia*, is the same word used in the Acts of the Apostles to describe the initial response to the good news, to describe the church community itself. ‘And the churches grew in numbers daily. And they continued in the teaching of the apostles, in the life of the *koinonia*, in the breaking of the bread, in the following of the Way.’”
- Donovan *Christianity Rediscovered*





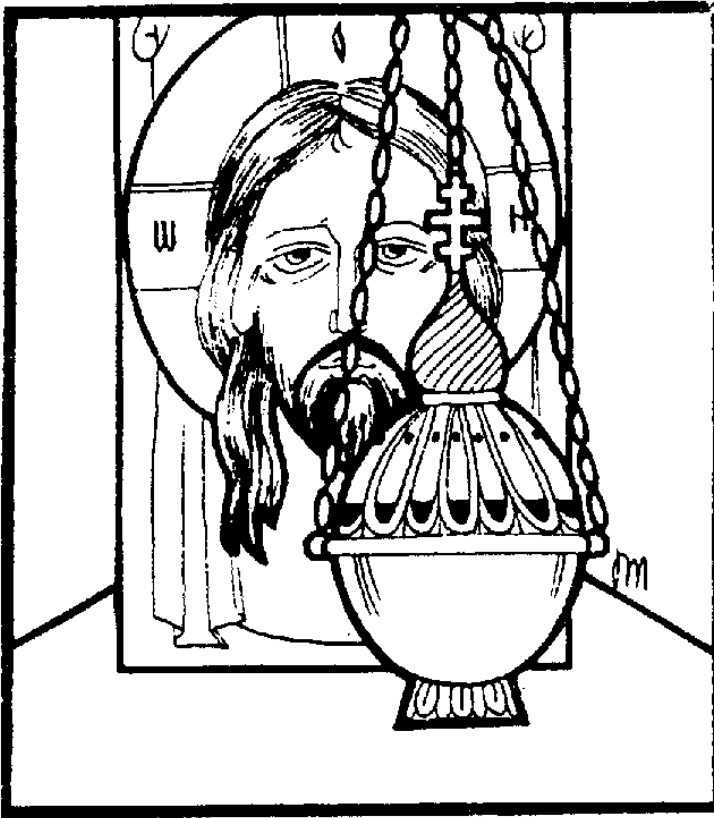
Have a vision



- *“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”*
Proverbs 29:18



However....



- “A vision without the ability to execute is probably a hallucination.”

Unknown

BUT...it is based on God not ourselves!

- *"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."*

1 Corinthians 3:6



The Sower and the Seed



- Matthew 13:1-23
- Mark 4:1-20
- Luke 8:4-15



Koinonetic Evangelism



- To Be Sent
- To Be Taught
- To Be Received

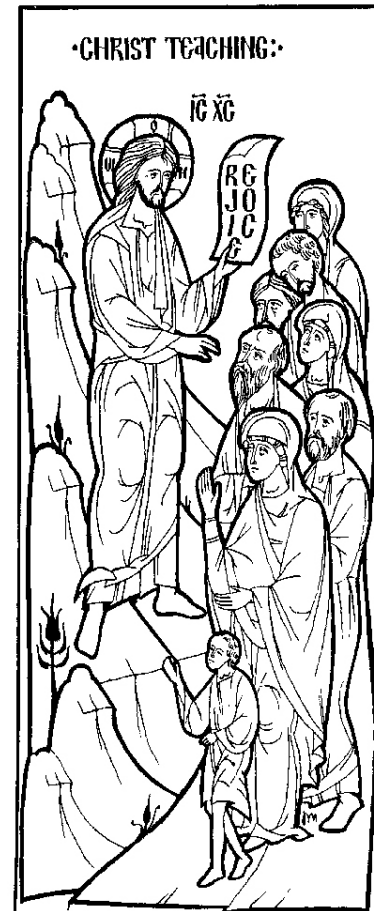
To Be Sent

- *Apostolia* (to send)
- Trinitarian Act
- To be sent to be gathered



To Be Taught

- *Catechesis* (to sound down)
- “Since the Church’s mission is Christ’s own, it always begins with the person and doctrine of Jesus proclaimed in the synoptic gospels, the Church’s basic proclamation (*kerygma*). Mission does not begin with theology (*theologia*), even the Church’s first and original theology recorded in the Gospel according to St. John. Nor does it begin with dogma or liturgy, spirituality or piety, mysticism or activism.” Fr. Thomas Hopko



To Be Taught (cont)

- ***Catechesis*** (to sound down)
- *Kerygma* (to proclaim)
- *Martyria* (to witness)
- *Didache* (to teach)
- *Apologia* (to defend)
- *Diaconia* (to serve)
- *Homologia* (to confess)





Kerygma



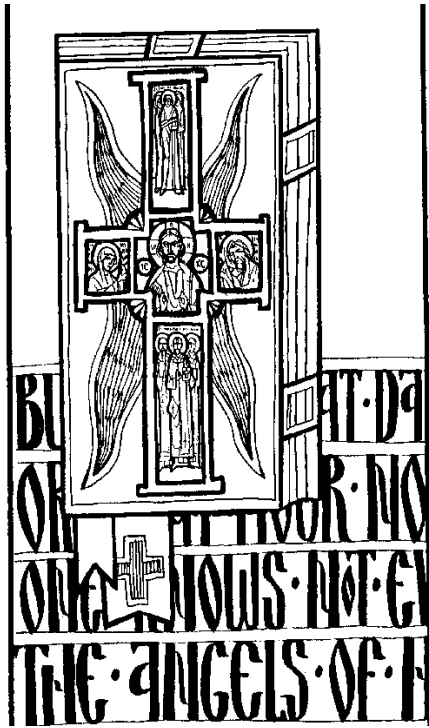
- Public act of proclaiming or heralding
- *Kerygma vs Dogma*
- One cannot hear what one is not told
- Lead to a *metanoia* (change of heart)

Martyria



- Witnessing
- Active (even to death)
- Passive (by a life)
- To incarnate a lifestyle

Didache



- Instruction
- Correct Praise or Teaching
- St. Innocent's *Instructions*
- The Church teaches



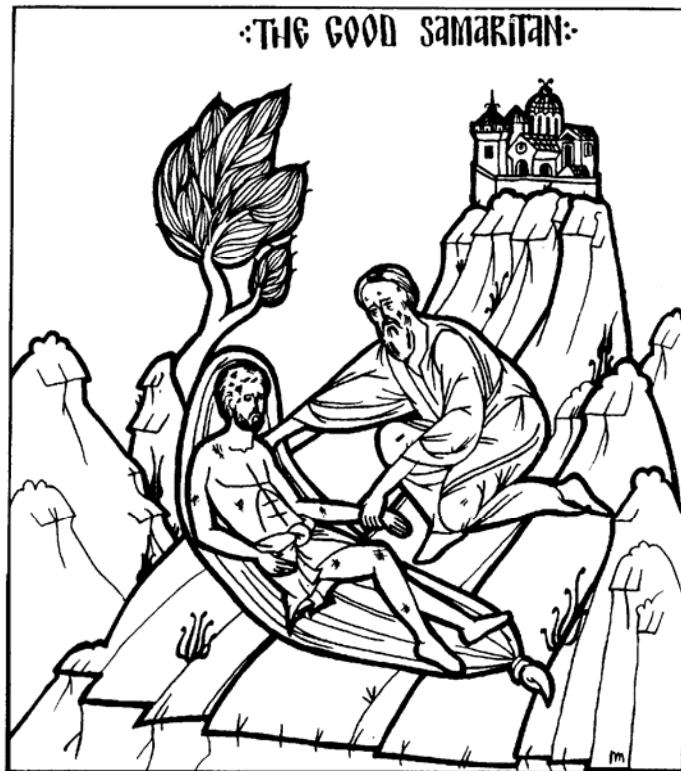
Apologia

THREE HIERARCHS



- Defense
- Dialogue
- Not judgment but in love
- Adopt a web of beliefs

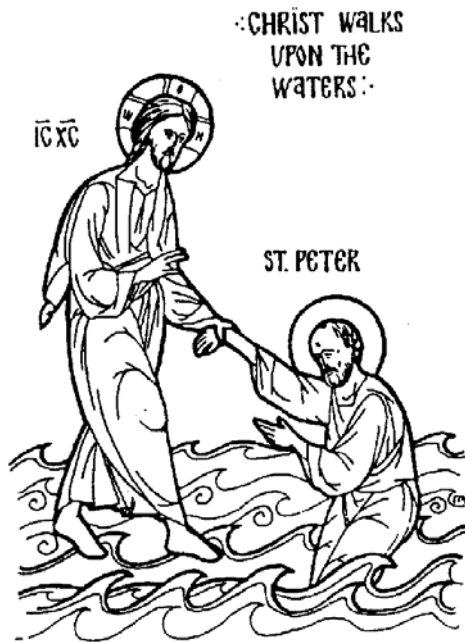
Diakonia



- To serve others
- "See how these Christians love one another" Tertullian
- The two altars. St. John Chrysostom



Homologia



- Profession of faith
- Same words
- 1 Timothy 6:12
- Sacramental Action

To Be Received

- Sacrament
- The goal of evangelism is to be a part of the community (koinonia)
- Integration
- Liturgical action
- To be part of the Body of Christ – The Church



Questions and Review

