



The Joy of The Gospel

Study Guide

Chapter One - "The Church's Missionary Transformation"

1. **"A Church Which Goes Forth"** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20). In the opening of this chapter, Pope Francis speaks of becoming an evangelizing community. What are some of the ways you feel called to serve others?
2. **"Pastoral Activity and Conversion"** "Mere administration can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be "permanently in a state of mission"...Without new life and an authentic evangelical spirit, without the Church's "fidelity to her own calling," any new structure will soon prove ineffective." What is the calling of the Church? What is the Church's mission?
3. **"From The Heart of The Gospel"** "Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others, and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others. Under no circumstances can this invitation be obscured!" List some of the ways God may be using you to bring the Gospel message to others. How have you seen God in others this week?
4. **"A Mission Embodied Within Human Limits"** "The Church is herself a missionary disciple; she needs to grow in her interpretation of the revealed word and in her understanding of truth." Pope Francis talks about the church as a missionary disciple and about a missionary heart working within human limits. What are some of the potential limits he is referring to?
5. **"A Mother With an Open Heart"** "If the whole Church takes up this missionary impulse, she has to go forth to everyone without exception. But to whom should she go first? When we read the Gospel we find a clear indication: not so much our friends and wealthy neighbors, but above all the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked, "those who cannot repay you" (Lk 14:14)." This week look for ways to serve the poor and the sick. Pray for them and serve them.