The Kerygma - The Heart of the Gospel

The Kerygma (Greek for "proclamation" or "to proclaim") refers to the first and essential proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the heart of the Gospel message proclaimed by the Apostles and entrusted to the Church (cf. CCC 425, 905). It is both a message and living encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ. When shared through word and lived witness, it includes these essential truths:

1. ***God loves you and has a plan for your life that is good.*** (God's Plan = Union with Him forever) God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness, created us in His image and likeness, and calls us into communion with himself to share in his own blessed life (cf. 1 Jn 4:8; Eph 1:3-6; CCC 1-3).
2. ***Humanity turns away from God through sin, which ruptures our relationship with God and brings death into the world*** (cf. Gn 3; Gn 4:7; Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23).
3. ***Jesus is the solution***. Jesus' incarnation, life, death, and resurrection reveal God's love for us, conquer sin and death, and open for us the way to healing, reconciliation, and eternal life (cf. Jn 3:16).
4. ***All people are called to repent, believe in the Gospel, and entrust their lives to Christ*** (cf. Mk 1:15; Acts 2:38).
5. ***Through faith in God and the ministry of His Church, all people can be united with God forever.*** Through faith in Jesus, baptism, and the Church, we receive the Holy Spirit, are strengthened by the sacraments, and are drawn into communion with God and His people, with the promise of eternal life (cf. Acts 2:42; CCC 1213, 1267).

Meditate on John 3:16 (Kerygmatic proclamation from Jesus)
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life."

- Reflect: What does this verse reveal about God's love? Do you believe these words from Jesus?
- Read: The Prologue of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1-3. (CCC 1-3)

Kerygmatic Proclamations in the Book of Acts

Read **Acts 2:14–36**, Peter's sermon at Pentecost.
Reflect: What did Peter proclaim about Jesus? How did he invite people to respond?

Further examples of kerygmatic proclamations:

- **Acts 2:14-36 — Peter to the crowds gathered on Pentecost**
- Acts 3:12-26 — Peter to the crowds amazed at the healing of the paralyzed man
- Acts 4:8-12 — Peter to the Jewish leaders at the healing of the paralyzed man
- Acts 5:29-32 — Peter to the Jewish leaders who order the Apostles to be silent
- Acts 10:34-43 — Peter to the household of Cornelius
- Acts 13:16-41 — Paul to the Synagogue in Pisidian Antioch
- Acts 14:15-17 — Paul to the crowds in Derbe
- Acts 17:22-31 — Paul at the Areopagus

Be Ready To Share Your Testimony

Use the following Kerygma-rooted structure to share your testimony.

- **A. Before** – What was happening in your life before this encounter?
- **B. Encounter** – Share the encounter you had with God (rooted in the Kerygma)
- **C. After** – How has this encounter impacted your life and relationships with God / the Church?

Reflect on whether the Kerygma is clear. Is it genuine, gentle, and respectful? We share testimony with great hope, that by giving witness to what God has done in our lives, others may open their hearts to know, love, and serve God as well. Focus on what Jesus has done for you.

"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence." ***— 1 Peter 3:15-16***