

EVANGELIZATION SPIRAL PROCESS

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Among the many methods of evangelization one of the most natural means is through the transcendentals of truth, beauty, and goodness. All three of these transcendentals have their origin in God; being that he is the creator of all things. Therefore, if a person is drawn to either of these transcendentals, and continues to seek one will ultimately be led to its origin God. Although methods of evangelization usually have specific processes that occur, this notion of evangelization is more of a spiral process than a chronological process.



First, let us understand that God our creator made us in His image and he also placed a desire in us for Himself, which cannot be satisfied by any counterfeit. God also being the origin of truth, beauty and goodness, draws us to himself through these means of his creation. Although a person may not immediately recognize God as the origin of this truth, beauty or goodness but in time may come to know God more fully through his attributes. The beauty or truth will continue to draw the person back to it and each time grows in a deeper understanding of the origin of that gift. In this way the process of evangelization with truth beauty and goodness is more of a spiral process.

Moreover, Fr. Barron states, *"The best evangelical strategy is one that moves from the beautiful to the good and finally to the true. This is precisely why moralizing and intellectualizing are often non-starters in regard to persuasion. But there is something unthreatening about the beautiful."*¹ Father is pointing out the preferred strategy for this time period and culture; he is also emphasizing the spiral process, one leading to another. These processes of watching truth unfold goodness in action or seeing or experiencing beauty is different than being told facts about something, which have their place. He continues by stating that these experiences, *"All of these work a sort of alchemy in the soul, and they awaken a desire to participate, to imitate, and finally to share."* He even classifies them in a pattern: *"first the beautiful (how wonderful!), then the good (I want to participate!) and finally the true (now I understand!)."*² This desire to share in the beauty, truth or goodness naturally flows into a desire to share these gifts with others, which is another way it becomes a spiral process of evangelization. As a person is being drawn into the beauty, goodness, and truth they will naturally lead others to a similar encounter.

In conclusion, beauty, goodness, and truth is in fact a process of evangelization but not the typical stages of evangelization rather a spiral process that penetrates more deeply as the process continues.

¹Fr. Robert Barron, *Evangelizing Through Beauty*, Feb. 2013, by Word on Fire

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[Back to Main Page of Teachings of SCTJM...](#)



Return to main page
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