



# *Kerygma Tool Kit*

## What is the Kerygma?

Kerygma comes from the Greek word which mean *to proclaim*. It is the proclamation of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the most essential element of our Catholic faith.

It is that which the doctrine of the Catholic faith builds upon.

*The Kerygma is what brings people into a deep and personal relationship with Jesus.*



**Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis**  
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# How does the Kerygma Inform the Work of Catechesis?

Children, youth and adults should all have ongoing experiences of hearing the kerygma. Beyond just hearing it, they need to opportunities to fully engage with this profound message. They need occasions to see this Good News as their own personal love story of salvation through Jesus.

The reason the kerygma must be proclaimed over and over and in different ways is because if it is only heard once, then it stands the chance of living in the head as a cognitive and intellectual understanding only. This message must penetrate the heart! This is how lives are transformed and decisions are made to follow Jesus. It is how evangelization occurs and discipleship begins. Catechesis that does not begin with and continue to include the Kerygma is much less effective at forming disciples.

## Short Videos Addressing the Essential Role of Kerygma

[What is the Kerygma and Why Must it Precede Catechesis](#)

[Kerygma: The New Evangelization Today](#)

[Testimonies of the Kerygma](#)

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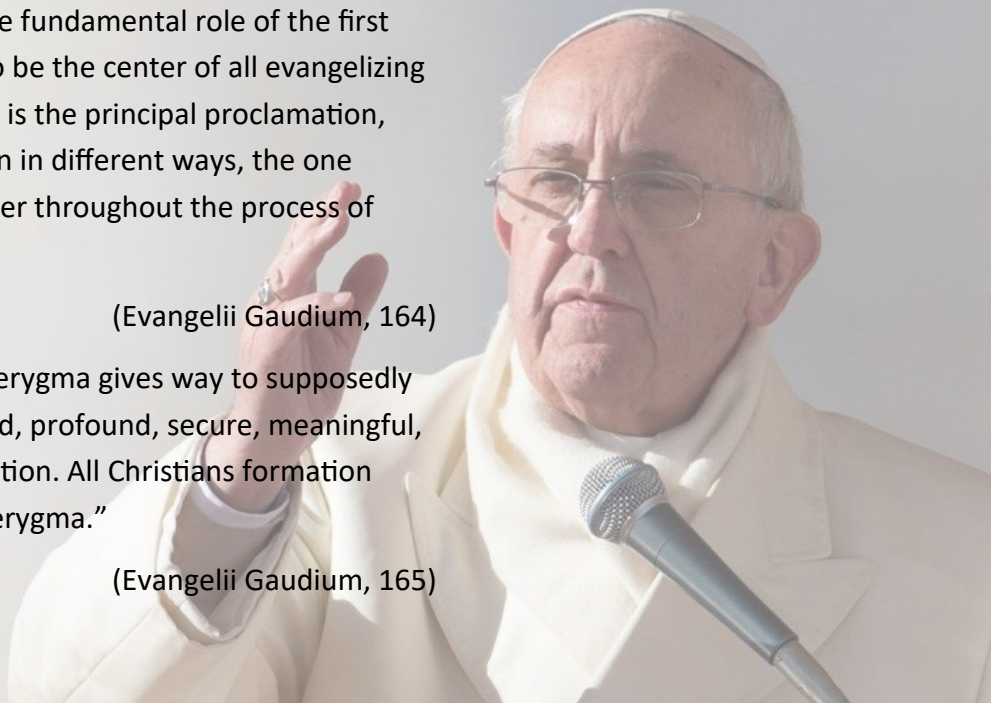
## Pope Francis has much to say about the importance of the Kerygma.

“In catechesis too, we have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement, or kerygma, which needs to be the center of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal...it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment.”

(Evangelii Gaudium, 164)

“We must not think that in catechesis the kerygma gives way to supposedly more ‘solid’ formation. Nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful, and wisdom-filled than that initial proclamation. All Christians formation consists of entering more deeply into the kerygma.”

(Evangelii Gaudium, 165)



# Versions of the Kerygma

## Five Movement Version

1. God is love and has created me for relationship with him.
2. I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.
3. Jesus restores my relationship with God through his life, death and resurrection.
4. Jesus invites me to give my life to him.
5. Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church.

## Narrative Version

God's plan for humanity is that we would always be in relationship with him. In fact. We are made to be with God forever, because he made us in his 'image and likeness'. But, humans have sinned and this sin has caused a block in our relationship with God. Still God had a plan to save us. He sent his Son, Jesus, to come and win us back to God. He lived, died and rose that we can be freed from the chains of sin and have eternal life. He wants our 'here and now' lives to be more joyful. Now that we have this opportunity, it is up to us to respond to his gift of grace and mercy. Jesus calls us each by name and waits for each of us to say 'yes' to him. He waits for us to ask for forgiveness of our sins and to live a life that trusts in Him to guide us toward of life of freedom and a life in Heaven. The choice is your own and you have the freedom to choose to follow Jesus. Would you like to choose this grace today?

## Extremely Simple Form

God creates  
Sin enters  
Jesus saves  
We respond

## Seven Element Version

God loves you and has a plan for your life  
Sin will destroy you  
Jesus died to save you.  
Ask for forgiveness and trust in Jesus  
Be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit  
Remain with Jesus and His body, the Church  
Spread this good news to help make disciples

# Resources for Proclaiming the Kerygma

## For Adults

Listen to [Fr. John Ricardo's Introduction to the Kerygma](#) to hear his unique and profound perspective of the Gospel message of Jesus.

## Book Study for Teens and Adults

[Jesus: The Story You Thought You Knew](#) by Deacon Keith Strohm

In *Jesus: The Story You Thought You Knew*, Deacon Keith Strohm invites you not just to read about Jesus, but to have a transformative encounter with him. This isn't a book of theology, or an abstract story with little impact on your real life. It is the story that can and will transform you if you're open to it. In these pages, you will discover who you truly are and what you were created for. You will meet Jesus, not simply as an historical figure, but as our living and present Savior and friend. Reflection and discussion questions are included at the end of each chapter.

[Under the Influence of Jesus: The Transforming Experience of Encountering Christ](#) by Joe Paprocki

Many Catholics feel catechized but not "evangelized", meaning they know about Jesus but do not feel they know him personally. The bridge between where we are and where we want to be in our faith journey can be confusing without the right guidance. In *Under the Influence of Jesus*, best-selling author Joe Paprocki explains complex spiritual concepts with engaging discussion so that "everyday" Catholics can integrate and articulate their faith and live the Gospel in a way that is simple, compelling, contemporary, liberating, and life-changing.

## For Youth

[Alpha for Youth](#) is part of the Alpha series and provides a format for teens to experience the Kerygma and help young people engage in meaningful discussions that focus on the big questions they have at this stage of life.

## Kerygma Retreat for Teens

Trinita Retreat Center in New Hartford is offering a Kerygma Retreat for High School youth called S.H.I.N.E. Click [here](#) for more details.

## For Children

[Kerygma 4 Kids](#) is a new evangelization tool for children that proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ in a unique and engaging way. It is available for Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Music is a wonderful way to preach the Kerygma to children. [Songs for Youth Children to Preach Kerygma](#) is a compilation of songs for young children with lyrics and hand movements.

Storybooks are another powerful way to help children understand the Gospel message.

[The Garden, The Curtain and The Cross](#),

by: Carl Laferton and Catalina Echeverri

This beautifully illustrated hardback book takes children on a journey from the garden of Eden to God's perfect new creation. [The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross](#) is a simple yet profound proclamation of God's Love and Jesus' redemption appropriate for children.





# Kerygma Presentation Opportunities

Led by Kelly Henderschedt  
Archdiocesan Director of Catechesis

## The Greatest Story Ever Told

Length: 30-40 minutes

This is a virtual retreat for children and their parents. It opens up the Good News in a way that allows the participants to see themselves as a main character in God's Love Story. No downloaded materials are necessary, although a follow up prayer guide for adults is available for continued reflection and contemplation. It is extremely appropriate for children; however, parents/caregivers need to attend as well. This would make a good addition to family faith formation programs.

## A Kerygma Experience

Length: 60 minutes

This retreat explores the movements of the Good News to those who are perhaps not as far along on their path of discipleship. It would be ideal for those in earlier stages of evangelization. It allows participants to see themselves in the Good News and is a perfect jumping off point for a deepening relationship with Jesus. It is effective for parents of children in faith formation programs, RCIA candidates or anyone seeking deeper meaning in the Catholic faith.

## A Kerygma Retreat

Length: 2+ hours

This allows participants to experience the Good News in a profound way. It includes music, art, scripture, prayer and opportunities for reflection. A downloadable participant guide is available to use throughout the retreat, however the reflection questions are also included in the visual presentation. A follow up guide for "Praying through the Kerygma" is an important extension to this retreat. This retreat would be effective for catechists or those involved in ministries. It is most effective for disciples who already experience a personal relationship with Jesus, but perhaps need reminding of this essential message. It does much to bring the Gospel message from the head to the heart.

*Although it is my hope that these presentations can be offered in-person soon, for now they are being offered virtually.*



For more information, contact

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