

kerygma / (noun) ke-ryg-ma \kə-'rig-mə\

definition

The word kerygma is related to the Greek verb κηρύσσω (kērússō) (pronounced "kay-roos'-so") meaning to cry or proclaim as a herald. It means proclamation, announcement or preaching. The kerygma is the apostolic proclamation of salvation through Jesus Christ.

examples

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel. (*Mk 1:14-15*)

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 2:38*)

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures (*1 Cor 15:4*)

Jesus Christ loves you, he gave his life to save you, and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you. *Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium, 164)*

In Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all men, as a gift of God's grace and mercy. And not an immanent salvation, meeting material or even spiritual needs... but a salvation which exceeds all these limits in order to reach fulfillment in a communion with the one and only divine. *Pope Paul VI (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 27)*

mandate

[Silent] witness, no matter how excellent, will ultimately prove ineffective unless its meaning is clarified and corroborated...the good news proclaimed by a witness of life sooner or later has to be proclaimed by the word of life. There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed. (*Evangelii Nuntiandi, 22*)

Evangelization will also always contain - as the foundation, center, and at the same time, summit of its dynamism - a clear proclamation that, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all men, as a gift of God's grace and mercy. (*Evangelii Nuntiandi, 27*)

simple form



God loves me unconditionally and has created me for relationship with Him.



I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.



Jesus restores my relationship with God through his life, death, and resurrection.



Jesus invites me to trust him, to turn from sin and to give my life to Him.



Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church.

For Reflection

Has anyone proclaimed the kerygma to you before? When? How was it presented? Did you have an opportunity to respond? Did you respond?

What is it that Jesus has invited you to? How have you responded to that invitation?

What has the Holy Spirit done in your heart as you have reflected on the kerygma today? What do you need to do to respond?

Have you ever intentionally proclaimed the kerygma to someone? When? How? Was it successful in bringing them to the invitation to respond?

Where can you identify the elements of the kerygma present at Mass? What would it mean to preach a kerygmatic homily?

What ways could you incorporate the kerygma into ministry in a parish?