

# JOY OF THE GOSPEL

Pastoral Initiative #4  
the Grace Of Accompaniment

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# THE GRACE OF ACCOMPANIMENT

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-16

But thanks be to God,  
who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession,  
and through us spreads in every place  
the fragrance that comes from knowing him.  
**For we are the aroma of Christ**  
to God among those  
who are being saved and among those who are perishing;  
to the one a fragrance from death to death,  
to the other a fragrance from life to life.

# ACCOMPANIMENT

In a culture paradoxically suffering from anonymity and at the same time obsessed with the details of other people's lives, the

Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary.

In our world, ordained ministers and other pastoral workers can **make present the fragrance of Christ's closeness** and his personal gaze.

The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious and laity – into this **“art of accompaniment”** which teaches us to remove our sandals before the **sacred ground** of the other.

EG, 169



## GRACE AND ACCOMPANIMENT

Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive children, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.

Grace is a participation in the life of God.

CCC, 1996

## THE GRACE OF (MY) ACCOMPANIMENT

Who are the people who have appeared at the right moment to accompany you so that you could become your most real self?

When was a time when you needed encouragement and assistance but were not offered it?

How has the Church – through her sacraments and people – been your companion and guide?

# IN THE PARISH FOR THE PARISH

Someone good at such accompaniment  
**does not give in to frustrations or fears.**

He or she invites others to let themselves be healed,  
to take up their mat, embrace the cross, leave all behind  
and go forth ever anew to proclaim the Gospel.

Our personal experience of being accompanied and assisted,  
and of openness to those who accompany us, will teach us to be  
**patient and compassionate with others,**  
and to find the right way to gain their trust,  
their openness and their readiness to grow.

Evangelii Gaudium 172

IN THE PARISH  
FOR THE PARISH

We Are an  
“Accompanying  
Parish”

Reverence For  
Every Journey

Unity in the  
Voice of  
Accompaniment

Our Teacher,  
As Teacher

The Everyday

The Sunday  
Liturgy

**CASE STUDY:  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



# BEYOND OUR WALLS

It is a matter of reaching out to everyone,  
of needing to help each person find his or her  
proper way of participating in the ecclesial community  
and thus to experience being touched by an  
“unmerited, unconditional and gratuitous” mercy.

No one can be condemned for ever,  
because that is not the logic of the Gospel!  
Here I am not speaking only of the divorced and remarried,  
but of everyone,  
in whatever situation they find themselves.

*Amoris Laetitia #297*



# BEYOND OUR WALLS

1

Move Beyond  
Our Comfort  
Zone

2

Faith is a  
Gradual  
Movement

**BRAINSTORM:  
BEYOND OUR WALLS**

**GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE**

“We are never completely ourselves  
unless we belong to a people.”



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