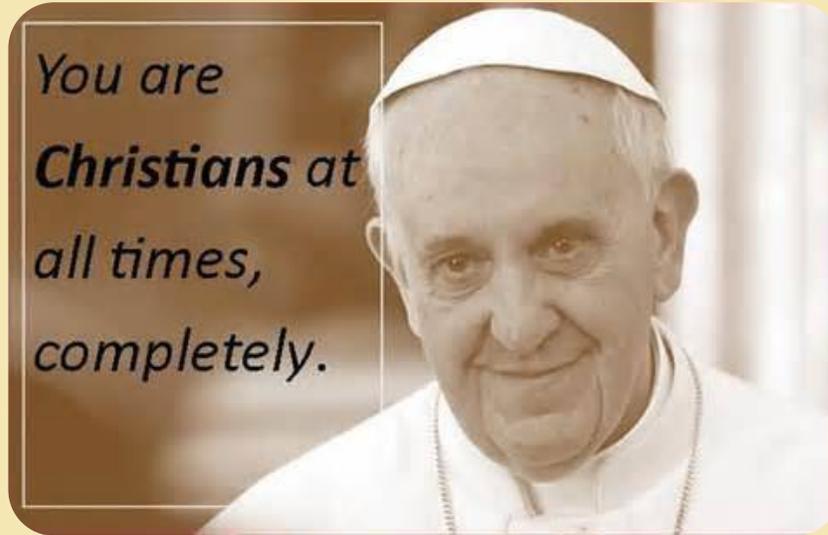


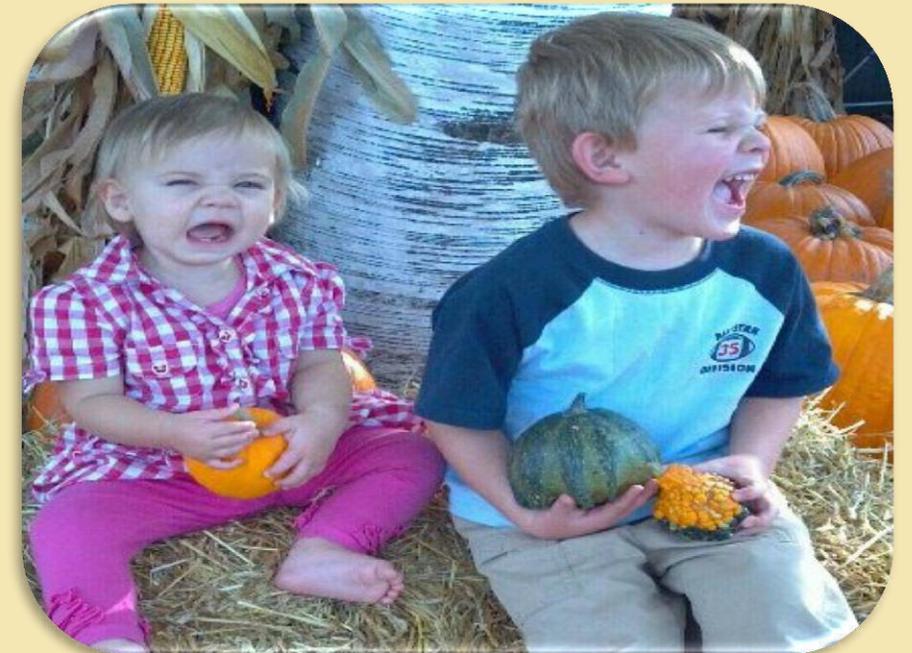
# Full Time Christianity: Creating a Culture of Intentional Discipleship in your parish

You are  
**Christians at**  
all times,  
completely.



*“What steps we are taking so that the faith guides our existence because there are no part-time Christians, at certain moments, in certain circumstances, in certain **choices?**”*

*Pope Francis May 15 2013*



*A Personal Note*



# The Hunger of Our Time

*“We see in this society a widespread spiritual hunger – a quest for meaning and for a deeply personal experience of God and of community”. (OHWB)*



“The data is powerful....by a ratio of four to one, Americans predict that such beliefs and practices will become more of a force in people’s lives rather than less....”

We continue to believe that religion and religious faith can answer the **problems of the day.**  
*(Commentary from Gallup)*

# Our Hearts Are Burning Within Us



*“ We see in this society a widespread spiritual hunger – a quest for meaning and for a deeply personal experience of God and of community”.*

(OHWB)

*“God is opening before the Church the horizons of a humanity more fully prepared for the sowing of the gospel.”* (Redemptoris Missio)



## The Reality

- The typical Catholic donated about 17% less money to their Church, was 38% less likely than the average American to read the Bible, 67% less likely to attend a Sunday school class, 20% less likely to share their belief in Christ with someone of a different faith and 24% less likely to say that belief in Christ had greatly transformed their life.
- However, Catholics were 16% more likely to have attended a Church service and 8% more likely to have prayed to God the prior week.

# For your consideration.....

While Americans have become less attached to religious institutions, there is little evidence they have become less religious. In 1992, according to the indispensable [Pew Research Center](#), 58 percent of Americans described religion as “very important.”

In 2012, it was . . . 58 percent. There is a similar stability in the proportion of Americans who regard prayer as an important part of their lives.

# The Center of Catechesis

- Adult faith formation must be situated at the center of the Church's educational mission rather than relegated to the periphery as it has been for many years. "Because of its importance and because all other forms of catechesis are oriented in some way to it, catechesis of adults must have priority at all levels of the Church"

(NCD #188)



# The Center of Catechesis

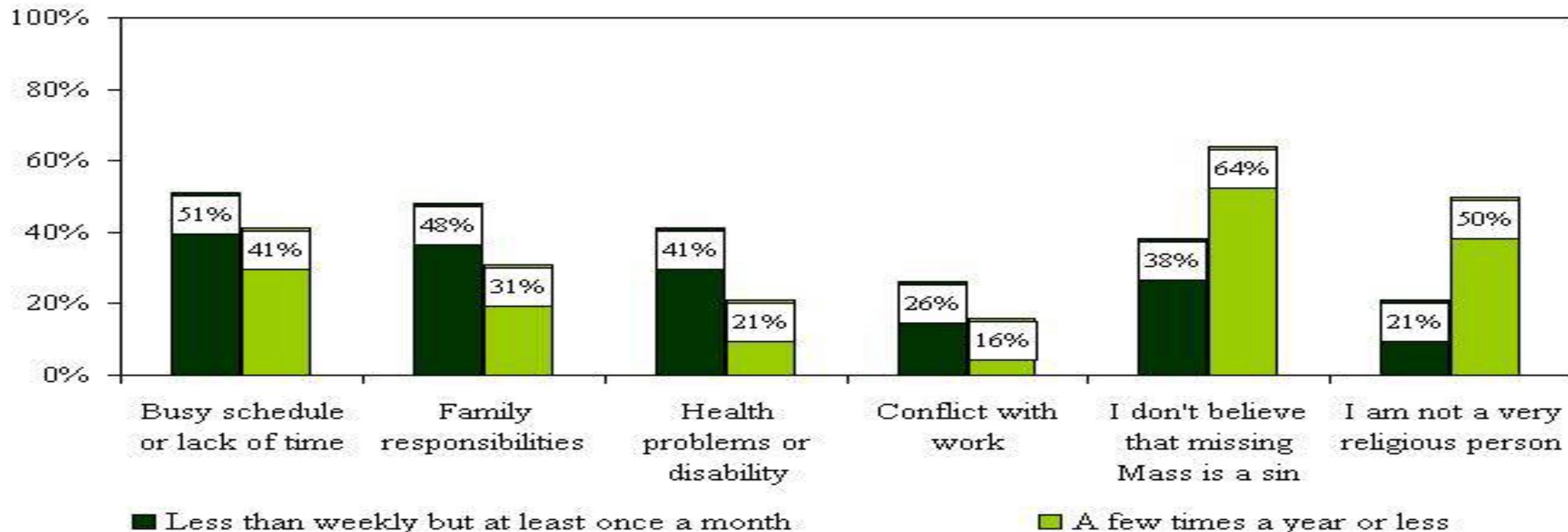
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(NCD #188)



*If you missed Sunday Mass at least once in the last six months, how well do each of the following explain, if at all, why you missed Mass?*

Percentage responding at least "Somewhat" by Mass attendance



For younger Catholics attendance at Church is directly correlated with the certainty that **it is possible to have a personal relationship with God.** (only 40% believe this is possible). (Pew data 2012)

## Programs

Churches feel they have fulfilled their obligation if they provide a broad menu of courses, events, and other experiences, but such a well-intentioned but disjointed approach leaves people confused and imbalanced."



# GROWING TRUE DISCIPLES

*New Strategies for Producing  
Genuine Followers of Christ*

**GEORGE BARNA**  
President, Barna Research Group, Ltd.

# Our Catholic retention strategy



- ◆ Focused on Programming
- ◆ Childhood Catechesis
- ◆ Sacramental Initiation



Sustaining practices of Catholicism are missing in daily life (prayer, faith sharing, study, stewardship).

Disconnect between certain moral teachings and widespread Catholic practice (sexuality and social teaching).

Even the most successful, large, suburban Catholic parish is missing over 60% of its Catholic people, not to mention the large percentages of unconnected Americans who have no faith family.

# **Adult Faith Programs: Not Just Busy, But Effective**

Programs provide:

- 1) Opportunities for conversion experiences.
- 2) Growth in faith through “conversations with other adults about things that matter”.
- 3) Catechesis to form adults for faithful decision-making.
- 4) Quality activities and events parishioners can invite others to.

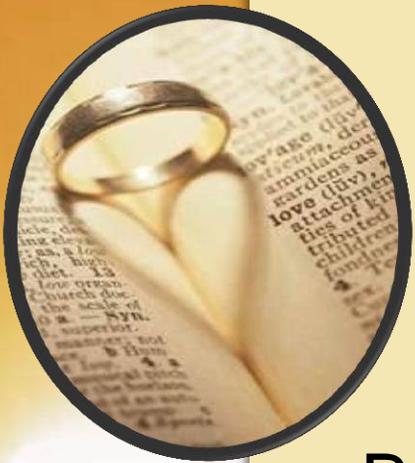
**The goal of adult faith formation to ‘form adults who actively cultivate a lively baptismal and eucharistic spirituality with a powerful sense of mission and apostolate. Nourished by word, sacrament and communal life, they will witness and share the Gospel in their homes, neighborhoods, places of work and centers of culture’**  
(OHWB # 5)

Adult faith formation is clearly rooted in the life, teaching and mission of the Church. The goal of adult faith formation is a personal relationship to Christ which informs every area of our daily living. The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults clearly helps us to connect with adults in their times of and struggle and joy.

They will come for the Sacraments. *Right?!*

Between 1972-2010- among young adults, the percentage of married Catholics dropped by 60%. Of married Gen X and Millennials 40% were not married in the Church.

*When it comes to the Church....  
many young adults are listening to WIIFM*



# Consider this.....



*“Pew researchers found that attending CCD, youth groups and even Catholic high schools **made little or no difference** in whether or not an American Catholic teen ended up staying Catholic, becoming Protestant or leaving to become unaffiliated. The best predictor of adult attendance at religious service is **strong adult faith**”*

*Forming Intentional Disciples pg 35*

# ***Collective Wisdom—What are the implications for your parish?***

- How does your parish connect your adults with Jesus, the Church, the Church's mission and their peers?
- Are you providing adults with a sense of community, with inspiration, with Catholic identity?
- Are you inviting the gifts of adults from all demographics into leadership and service in your parish?

What is the New Evangelization?

# The error of assumptions...



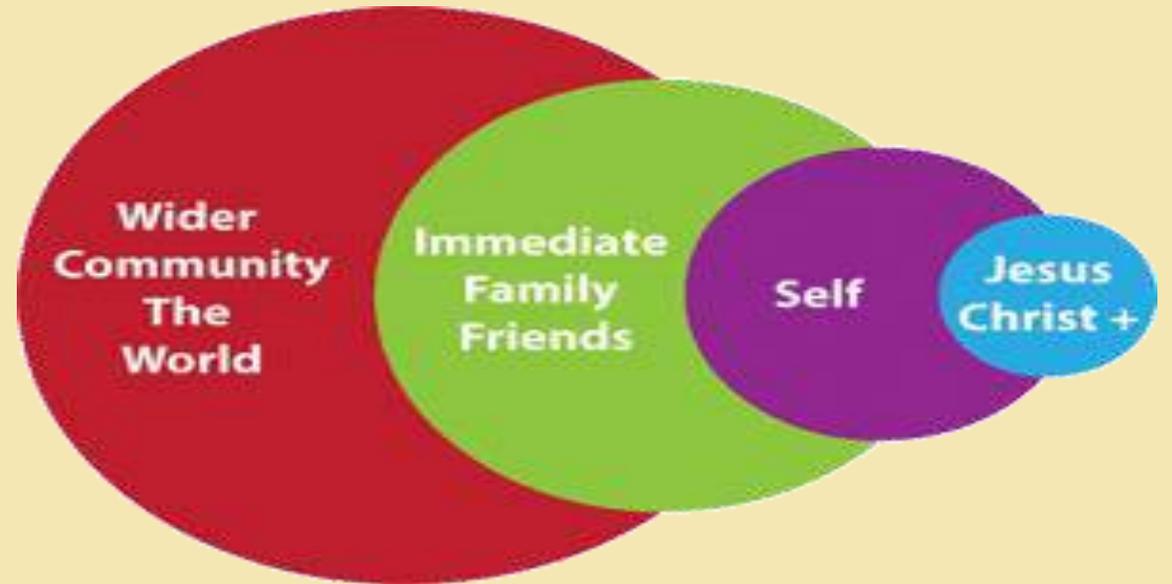
**“All too often those of us in positions of Church leadership assume that all folks in the pews on Sundays, all the children in our grade schools, high schools and...in our youth groups and all the members of our RCIA team are already disciples. Many are not. The same can be said of staffs and faculties of Catholic institutions. Our people may be very active in the programs of our parishes, schools and institutions but unfortunately, such participation does not qualify for discipleship”**

*Father Damien Ference*

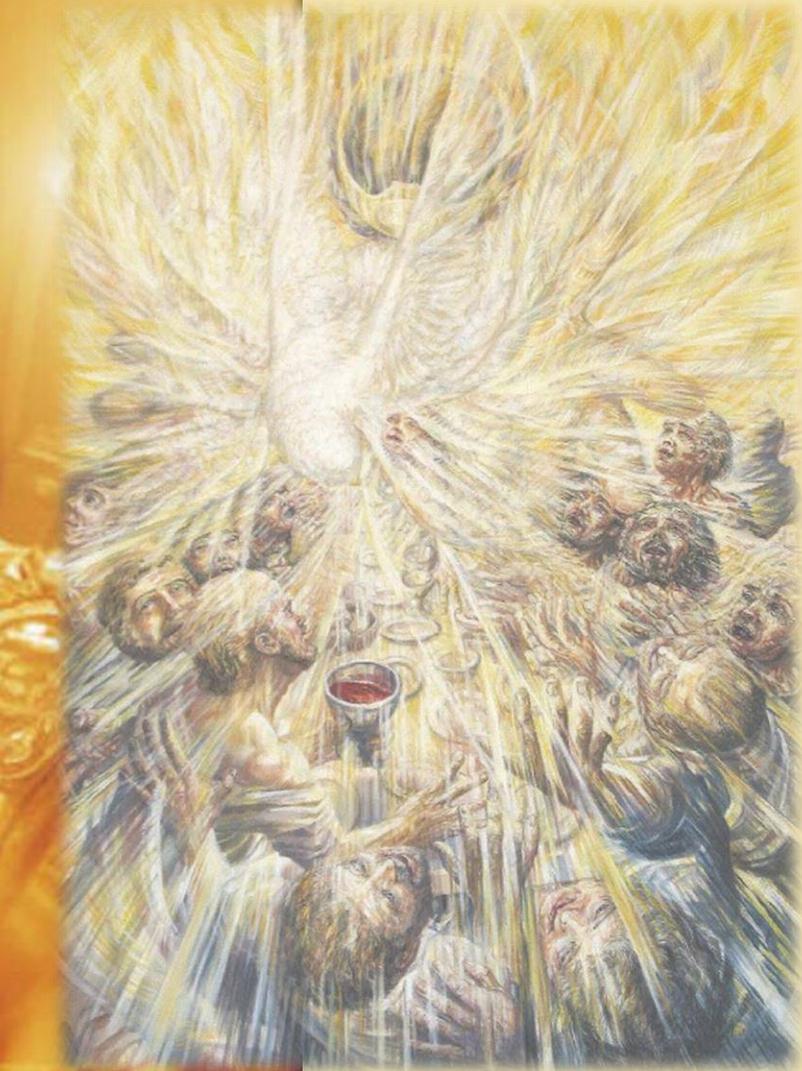
*“Forming Intentional Disciples” Sherry Weddell pg 55.*

# Who are the targets?

- Me, Myself, You and I!
- Our immediate family and friends
- Those around us who are on the margins
- Those who do not know the kerygma
- The mission fields have changed from foreign to domestic.



# A new evangelization?



"Evangelization cannot be new in its content since its very theme is always the one gospel given in Jesus Christ."

**(Blessed JP II, "The Task of the Latin American Bishops," 1983)**



# Toward a New Pentecost

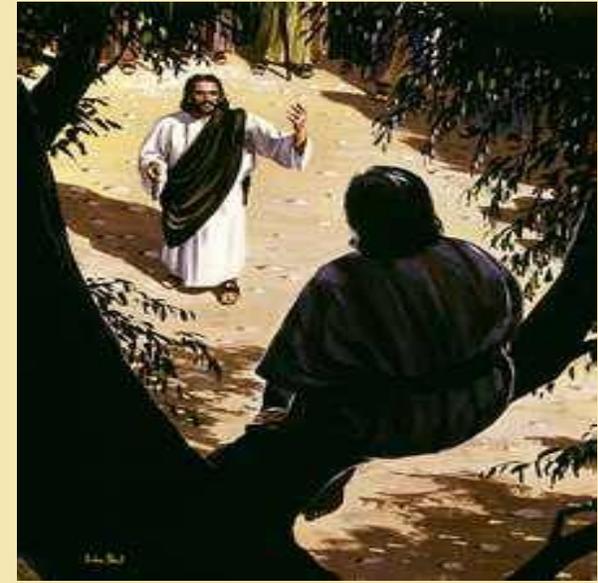


**“Evangelization can be new  
in its ardor, methods and expression.”**

*(JP II, “The Task of the Latin American Bishops, 1983)*

# First things- First!

"We cannot engage culture unless we let him (Jesus) first engage us, we cannot dialogue with others unless we first dialogue with him, and we cannot challenge others unless we first allow him to challenge us."  
Cardinal Dolan



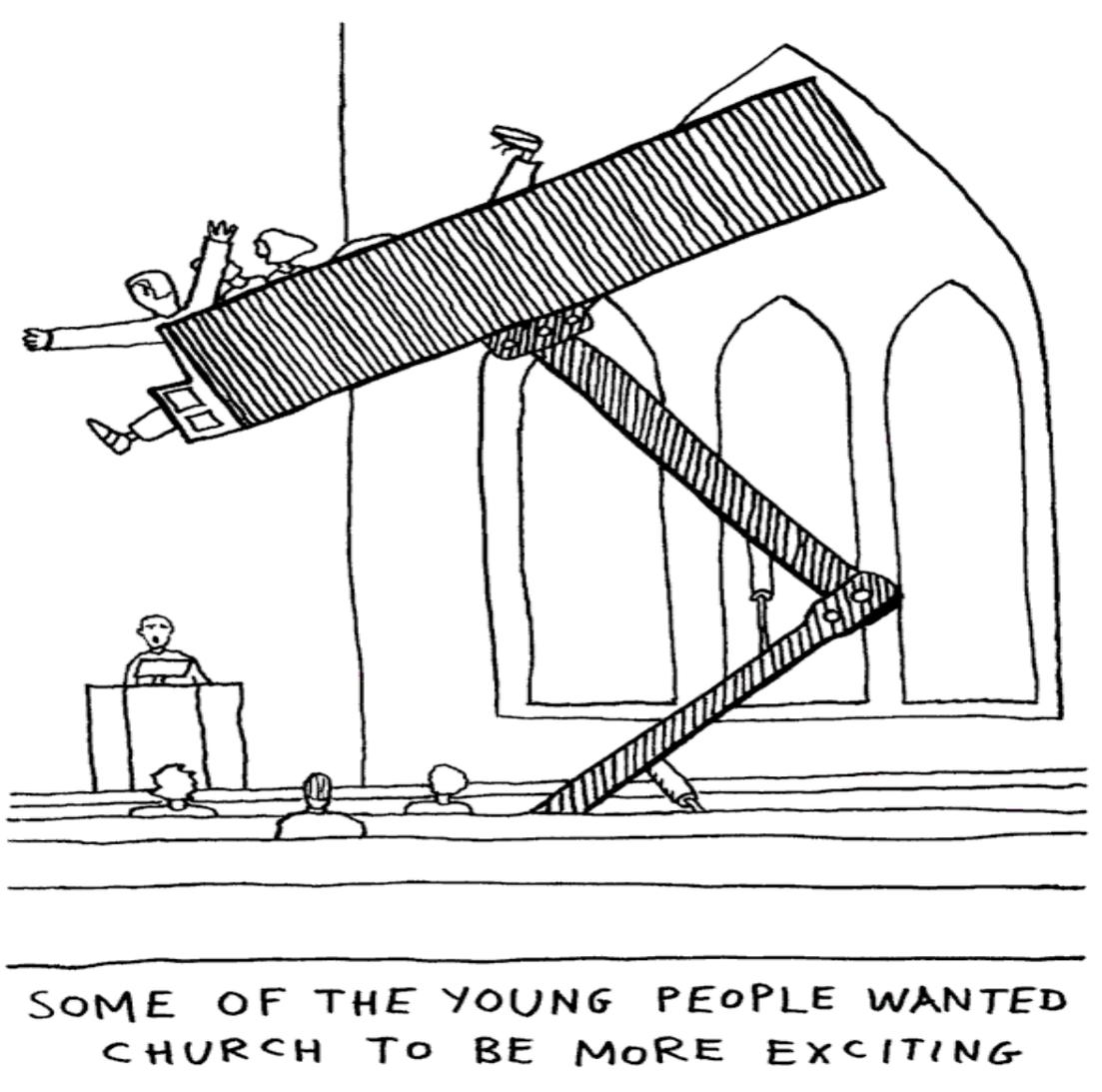
There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed." EN 22.



"People will not accept Jesus based on the word of the Church but they will accept the Church based on the word of Jesus".

His description of the laity is beautiful, they are a "kind of nuclear energy in the Church".  
Fr. Cantalamesa.

# For your consideration.....



“We have done everything humanly possible to make church “easy”.

We kept the services short and entertaining, discipleship and evangelism optional and moral standards low.

Our motives were not bad. We figured we could attract more people by offering Jesus with minimal commitment. But we ended up producing nominal Christians whose **unchanged lives** have deterred others from being interested.

This generation sees the potency of a church where we equip and shepherd **disciple makers** rather **than service attenders.**”

*Francis Chan- author of Forgotten God*

# Questions for Discussion

- What would you identify as the greatest parish needs in the Diocese?
- Can I identify how formation and discipleship is taking place at my parish?
- What things should we... START, STOP, and KEEP doing in order to form disciples in the new evangelization?



# Creative Strategies for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disciple-making

## Forming Intentional Disciples

**“Discipleship does not happen simply because a church exists.** It occurs when there is an intentional and strategic thrust to facilitate spiritual **maturity**”

*George Barna “Growing True Disciples” pg 29*



# How? A Culture of Witness!

- *“As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” (Jn 13:34)*
- “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses...” (Paul VI)



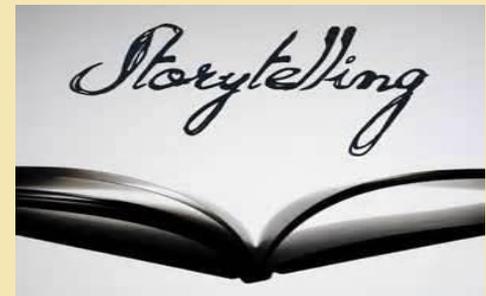
# Share Your Story of Faith

“Whether you were baptized as a child or joined the Church as an adult, *you have a story of faith.*”

“Whether you sincerely live your faith in quiet or have a great public ministry, *you have a story of faith.*”

“Whether you have a grade-school knowledge of the catechism or have a theological degree, *you have a story of faith.*”

***Go and Make Disciples 1992***



## The Keys are to:

### Welcome, Invite and Intentionally Evangelize:

- Consistent evangelization of engaged Catholics.
- Consistent invitation to disengaged Catholics.
- Consistent invitation to those searching for a community
- Compassionate invitation to other believers.

# LEADERSHIP TEAM

## FOLLOW THE MODEL OF THE 12 APOSTLES



- Develop and Disciple
- Intentional Time, Intentional Focus
- Evangelization through friendship

Jesus did not call the Apostles to live in isolation, he called them to form a group, a community.”

Pope Francis *WYD 2013 Address*

# Practical Principle 1: Get “Real” about Welcoming



**Cry Room Available**  
Rear of Worship Center



## CELEBRATING CHILDREN

AT ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest...

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; do not feel you have to suppress it in God's House.
- Sit toward the front where it is easier to see and hear.
- Quietly explain the parts of the Mass.
- Sing the songs, pray, and say the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you need to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back.
- Remember, that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to Jesus the Christ. Let them know that they are at home in this liturgical gathering.
- Please do not use the pew envelopes for *kids art* – you may let your child use the reverse side of this card to draw or doodle.

To the members of the parish...

*A smile of encouragement is a joy to parents  
with small, active children.*

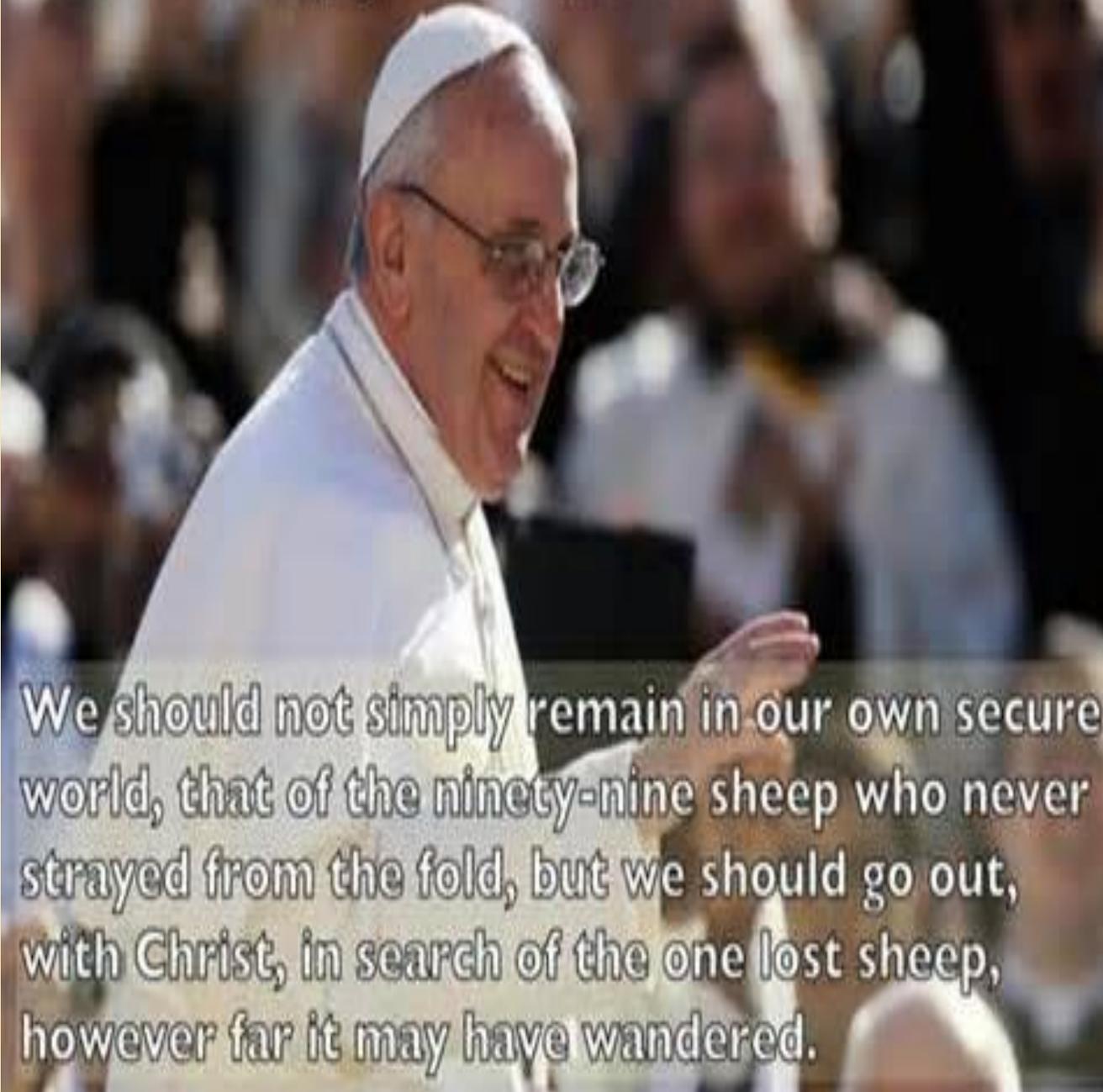
## Celebrate the Little Ones!

There are priests who **don't** baptize the children of single mothers because they **weren't** conceived in the sanctity of marriage. These are **today's** hypocrites.

Those who clericalize the church. Those who separate the people of God from salvation.

And this poor girl who, rather than returning the child to sender, had the courage to carry it into the world, must wander from parish to parish so **it's** baptized.!

Pope Francis



We should not simply remain in our own secure world, that of the ninety-nine sheep who never strayed from the fold, but we should go out, with Christ, in search of the one lost sheep, however far it may have wandered.

## Practical Principle 2 : Search out the Lost Sheep

*“Go and Preach the Gospel to  
All Nations” Mark 16:15*

“Go and Teach”

Come and Learn

# Go Where the People Are

- Surfing With the Son



Bask in the  
**S+ON**  
this summer!

Always step outside  
yourself!

Pope Francis, March 27, 2013

## Practical Principal 3: Step Outside the Box

**“Spirituality and Sushi”**



# What's your family plan?



1200 minutes, unlimited talk and data



10 minutes

Can you give God one hour of your time?

Come worship with us at St. Mary's Parish, we would love to see you there!

# Practical Principal: Be The Change

"Don't wear a cross around your neck if all you're going to do is complain about the one on your back."

~ Pope Francis



# Be The Light.....

“You may be the only Gospel that some people will ever read”.



"The trail of Catholicism in America is a clear example of **culture influencing faith** more often than **faith influencing culture**. The faith of tens of millions of Catholics is affected by the prevailing culture more than by the central principles and teachings of the Bible.

Spiritual leaders who are passionate about remaining true to the scriptures and to Catholicism's historic commitment to Jesus Christ and the Word of God must address this spiritual drift within the body.

If they fail to do so, in the next quarter century American Catholicism could well *lose its ability to shape people's minds and hearts in ways that conform to the historic teachings and purposes of Christianity.*"

*The Barna Group*

"Do not be a 'part-time' Christian, at certain moments, in certain circumstances, in certain choices, be Christian at all times!"

Pope Francis, May 15, 2013

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# Questions? Comments?

I would love to hear from you!

Julianne Stanz

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