

Faith Based Conversation 7th Monthly Meeting

A few challenges from Pope Francis

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. *Mt 28:19*). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples". If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: "We have found the Messiah!" (*Jn 1:41*). The Samaritan woman became a missionary immediately after speaking with Jesus and many Samaritans came to believe in Him "because of the woman's testimony" (*Jn 4:39*). So too, Saint Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, "immediately proclaimed Jesus" (*Acts 9:20*; cf. *22:6-21*). So what are we waiting for? *Evangelli Gaudium 120*

THE PRAYER PROCESS

TAKEN FROM '*THE FOUR SIGNS OF A DYNAMIC CATHOLIC*' Matthew Kelly

Gratitude: Begin by thanking God in a personal dialogue for whatever you are most grateful for today.

- **Awareness:** Revisit the times in the past twenty-four hours when you were and were not the-best-version-of-yourself. Talk to God about these situations and what you learned from them.
- **Significant Moments:** Identify something you experienced in the last twenty-four hours and explore what God might be trying to say to you through that event (or person).
- **Peace:** Ask God to forgive you for any wrong you have committed (against yourself, another person, or Him) and to fill you with a deep and abiding peace.
- **Freedom:** Speak with God about how He is inviting you to change your life, so that you can experience the freedom to be the-best-version-of-yourself.
- **Others:** Lift up to God anyone you feel called to pray for today, asking God to bless and guide them.
- **Pray the Our Father.**

Did you ever hear the story about the woman who dreamt she walked into a new seed shop in the market place, and to her surprise, found God was behind the counter. "What do you sell here?" she asked.

"Everything your heart desires," God answered.

Hardly daring to believe what she heard, the woman decided to ask for the best things a human being could wish for.

"I want peace of mind, and love, and happiness, and wisdom, and freedom from fear," she said.

Then as an after thought she added, "Not just for me; for everyone on earth."

God smiled. "I think you have misunderstood, my dear," He said. "We do not sell fruits here – only seeds."

"Lord, grant to us Your servants that with all boldness we may speak Your word".

If we don't tell a lost world about Jesus, who will?

From The Catholic Leader, 21 Feb 2015, Brian Moore