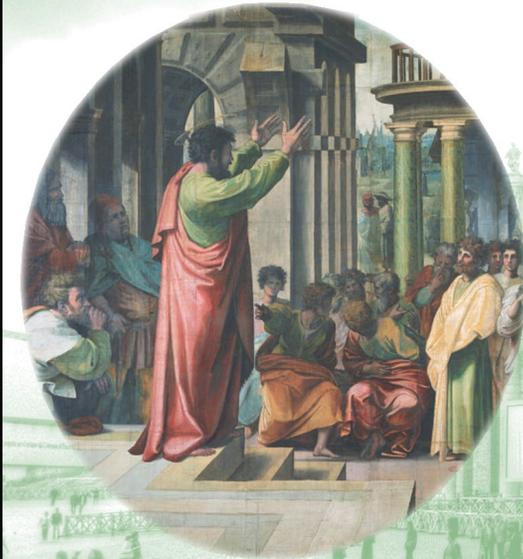


THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS

A SUMMER SERMON SERIES - AUGUST 2015

WEEK 4 — AUGUST 22-23, 2015

THE ESSENTIAL MISSION: THE NEW EVANGELIZATION



I. RECAP: *Three weeks ago, I began our sermon series on*

THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS

We discussed the Importance of a Personal Relationship with our Lord JESUS CHRIST:

We saw that this Personal Relationship is NOT AN OPTIONAL REALITY FOR OUR LIVES

- *Our Lord DIED ON THE CROSS so that we might have such a relationship with HIM*
- *The LIVES OF THE SAINTS all display the presence of this Personal Relationship*
- *And that the last three POPES have all called us to such a relationship*

Two weeks ago we saw that our Lord has already encountered us and wants to encounter us in an ever deeper way through:

- *the SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH*
- *SACRED SCRIPTURE and SACRED TRADITION*
- *and in our life of PRAYER*

Last week ago we discussed the Priveleged Community of the PARISH. Among the things we discussed that the PARISH IS CALLED TO BE:

- *a SCHOOL OF PRAYER: "where the meeting with Christ is expressed not just in imploring help but also in thanksgiving, praise, adoration, contemplation, listening and ardent devotion, until the heart truly "falls in love". Intense prayer, yes, - by opening our heart to the love of God it also opens it to the love of our brothers and sisters, and makes us capable of shaping history according to God's plan." as John Paul II told us*

- John Paul II, *Novo Millenio Ineute*, § 33.

- *and that it has a MISSIONARY CHARACTER this week we will flesh out the missionary Character.*

II. THE EVANGELIZING MISSION OF THE PARISH:

Blessed Paul VI tells us:)

We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. . . . Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection.

Blessed (Pope) Paul IV, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, § 14.

St. John Paul II has call the WHOLE CHURCH TO A NEW EVANGELIZATION:

As the Church throughout America prepared to commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the first evangelization of the continent, when speaking to the Council of Latin American Bishops in Port-au-Prince (Haiti), I had said: **“The commemoration of the five hundred years of evangelization will achieve its full meaning if it becomes a commitment by you the Bishops, together with your priests and people, a commitment not to a re-evangelization but to a new evangelization — new in ardor, methods and expression”**. Later, I invited the whole Church to respond to this call, although the program of evangelization, embracing today's world in all its diversity, must take different shape in the light of two quite different situations: on the one hand, the situation of countries strongly affected by secularization, and, on the other, the situation of countries where there are still “many vital traditions of piety and popular forms of Christian religiosity”. There is no doubt that in varying degrees both these situations are present in different countries or, better perhaps, in different groups within the various countries of the American continent.

Saint (Pope) John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, § 6.

IT IS A MISSION WE ALL PARTICIPANT:

851 Missionary motivation. It is from God's love for all men that the Church in every age receives both the obligation and the vigor of her missionary dynamism, “for the love of Christ urges us on.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

905 Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, “that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life.” **For lay people, “this evangelization ... acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world.”**

Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

WE ALL HAVE A PART IN THIS MISSION:

Dear brothers and sisters, you are among the protagonists of the New Evangelization that the Church has undertaken and carries forth, not without difficulties but with the same enthusiasm as the first Christians. To conclude, I make my own the words of the Apostle Paul that we have heard: I give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in my prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily - October 16, 2011.

NEXT WEEKEND WE WILL SEE HOW A INTENTIONAL COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW CHRIST MAKES ALL THIS POSSIBLE:

