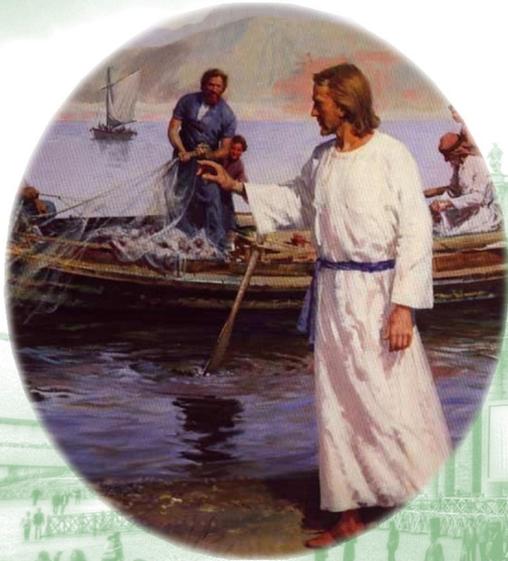


THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS

A SUMMER SERMON SERIES - AUGUST 2015

WEEK 5 — AUGUST 29-30, 2015



THE ESSENTIAL COMMITMENT: INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

I. RECAP: *This week we come to the conclusion of our sermon series on*

THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS

In the previous weeks we saw that that we are called to a Personal Relationship with our Lord JESUS CHRIST:

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

*We discussed what our parishes PARISH IS CALLED TO BE:
- a SCHOOL OF PRAYER a place of encounter with God*

*We saw that our PARISHES has a MISSIONARY CHARACTER
THAT WE ARE A MISSION OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD AND THAT WE EXIST TO PROCLAIM
CHRIST TO THOSE AROUND US — AND THAT WE ALL PARTICIPATE IN THIS MISSION.*

II. INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP AND THE OTHER REALITIES DISCUSSED

Today we com to the Central Reality which ties all of these other realities together — INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

The PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST we discussed earlier in the month should lead us to be a disciple of the Lord — And INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP deepens this personal relationship.

Our ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST through: the SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH, SACRED SCRIPTURE and SACRED TRADITION, and in our life of PRAYER must lead to INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP as it lead Matthew (also known as Levi) to LEAVE EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW CHRIST: ²⁷ After this he went out, and saw a tax collector, named Levi, sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ And he left everything, and rose and followed him. Luke 5:27-28

*The PARISH will never be what it is called to be unless it is filled with INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES:
The PARISH as a SCHOOL OF PRAYER should also foster INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES.
Without a COMMITMENT to be INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES among the members of our PARISHES
we will never be able to FULFILL OUR MISSION.*

III. WHAT IS INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP?

[Following Jesus is an Intentional Choice] Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.” ¹⁶And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ **And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men.”** ¹⁸ **And immediately they left their nets and followed him.** Mark 1:14b-18

[Disciple of Jesus grounded in the Truth] 2466 **The disciple of Jesus continues in his word so as to know “the truth [that] will make you free” and that sanctifies. To follow Jesus is to live in “the Spirit of truth,” whom the Father sends in his name and who leads “into all the truth.” To his disciples Jesus teaches the unconditional love of truth: “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes or No.’”** Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.).

[Disciple of Jesus surrenders to Him in Trust] **Faith does not simply provide information about Who Christ is; rather, it entails a personal relationship with Christ, a surrender of our whole person with all our understanding, will and feelings, to God's self-revelation.** Benedict XVI, Homily, World Youth Day Mass, August 21, 2011.

[Disciple of Jesus follows Him in the CHURCH] . . . as the Successor of Peter, let me urge you to strengthen this faith which has been handed down to us from the time of the Apostles. **Make Christ, the Son of God, the centre of your life. But let me also remind you that following Jesus in faith means walking at his side in the communion of the Church. We cannot follow Jesus on our own.** Anyone who would be tempted to do so “on his own”, or to approach the life of faith with that kind of individualism so prevalent today, will risk never truly encountering Jesus, or will end up following a counterfeit Jesus. Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, World Youth Day Mass, August 21, 2011.

[Living as a Disciple of Jesus in the CHURCH] **I ask you, dear friends, to love the Church which brought you to birth in the faith, which helped you to grow in the knowledge of Christ and which led you to discover the beauty of his love. Growing in friendship with Christ necessarily means recognizing the importance of joyful participation in the life of your parishes, communities and movements, as well as the celebration of Sunday Mass, frequent reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, and the cultivation of personal prayer and meditation on God's word.** Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, World Youth Day Mass, August 21, 2011.

[PRAYER OF INTENTIONAL COMMITMENT] **Say to [Jesus]: "Jesus, I know that You are the Son of God, Who have given Your life for me. I want to follow You faithfully and to be led by Your word. You know me and You love me. I place my trust in You and I put my whole life into Your hands. I want You to be the power that strengthens me and the joy which never leaves me."** Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, World Youth Day Mass, August 21, 2011.

IV. RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Priest: **Do you renounce Satan?**

All: I do.

Priest: **And all his works?**

All: I do.

Priest: **And all his empty show?**

All: I do.

Priest: **Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?**

All: I do.

**Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**

All: I do.

**Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?**

All: I do.

And the Priest concludes:

**And may almighty God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water
and the Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for eternal life.**

All: Amen.