

Discussion Questions

Fr. Casey Cole video

1. What are your general impressions of the video and its message?
2. What do you think Fr. Cole really gets right? Do you think he gets anything wrong?
3. The crux of the argument rests on the now famous quote by German theologian Karl Rahner: "The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist at all."
 - What does he mean by that? Do you agree?
 - How do you see the insight of this comment in your setting?
4. In essence, Fr. Cole is saying that we can't employ models of ministry or Catholic formation that were suited for a robust Catholic social structure if those structures are now gone. And even if there were those social structures supporting Catholic faith, the essence and lifeblood of Catholicism still arises out of regular, personal, transformative encounters with Jesus Christ (those "mystical" experiences).
 - Is that your view?
 - Does this conviction "fundamentally inform the way that you evangelize and catechize"?
5. Fr. Cole makes some bold assertions:
Fear and guilt – lose it
CCD and certificates of completion before receiving the sacraments
– burn it to the ground
Simply making the church hip and fun – get rid of it
 - Do you agree?
6. Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel* shares his "dream of a missionary option – transforming everything, so the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world" (EG, 27).
 - If you had a magic wand, what would you want to change (in the Church, in the diocese, in your parish, in your school) to make you more suitably channeled for evangelization?