

Witness: *Sharing Personal Testimony*



“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”

—1 Peter 3:15

What is Personal Testimony?

- A personal account of how you have come to know God and have responded to His action in a way that changed your life

Why Personal Testimony?

- When you reflect on your life you can see how God has been at work in it
- Sharing stories is a great way to engage people in a way that they can easily remember
- Personal witness rouses curiosity about Jesus Christ in others and this can be the first step in helping another to encounter Jesus

Witness Scenarios

In each of the following scenarios you ave an opportunity to give your witness. When considering what you will say, think about the people in the audience, the size of the audience, and what might best relate to their lives. In most of these cases you will have an opportunity to prepare your witness in advance.

- Coffee and donuts
- Marriage preparation
- Baptismal preparation
- Youth ministry large group or trip
- Confirmation class
- RCIA
- First Communion preparation meeting
- Visit to the sick
- Family invites you over for dinner
- Staff meeting
- EMHC training
- Council meeting
- Altar server training
- Lector training
- Conversation with a person on the street
- Faith formation class

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.” —Blessed Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*

(Evangelization in the Modern World), no. 41

1. How did you come to encounter Christ personally? What experiences with Him led you to say yes to Jesus in a way that you knew would make real demands on your life?

Consider: There may be many moments in your life when you encounter Christ. Those moments may include: encountering a committed disciple of Jesus Christ, the sacrament of confession, a powerful retreat experience, an experience of Christ at Mass or in adoration, etc. Times like these may be when you made the decision to put Jesus at the center of your life, knowing that being a faithful Catholic would make real demands on you. This moment is the time when you moved to a mature faith in Jesus Christ.

2. What was different in your life before you gave your 'yes' to Jesus Christ?

Consider: How was my prayer life? How did I intentionally try to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and His Church? How did I think about and treat others? Did I try to reach out to others to show them through my life and tell them in my own words about Jesus Christ? Did I give my resources to the poor, my church, or others in need?

3. What changes have you made after your 'yes' to follow Christ?

Consider: How is my prayer life? How am I intentionally trying to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and His Church? How am I thinking about and treating others? Do I try to reach out to others to show them through my life and tell them in my own words about Jesus Christ? Do I give my resources to the poor, my church, or others in need?

4. What challenge can you offer as part of your witness? What would you say to those who are considering saying 'yes' to Christ and His Church?

Consider: Has anyone ever challenged you in the Christian life? Reflecting on your witness, what challenges did others pose to you that helped you to grow? Invite others to be challenged in the way you were challenged.
