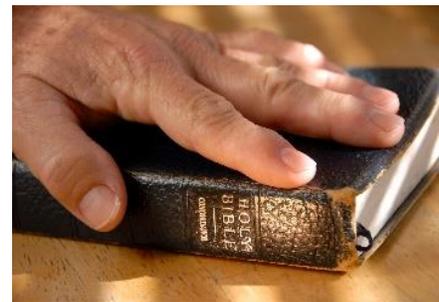


## Would we be convicted of being Catholic?

In *Unleash the Gospel*, Archbishop Vigneron writes that being a Christian witness is an “awesome task,” yet we are wholeheartedly to “let ourselves be transformed, guided, and sent forth by the Holy Spirit” (p.2) as witnesses. Sinners we are, but by God’s Grace and Mercy we strive to do our best to respond to the “universal call to holiness,” to become living saints. Sainly Catholics pray, worship God at Mass, care for neighbors, raise children to know and love Jesus and – most challenging today – live our lives in witness to Christ in a culture that trivializes faith and can be openly antagonistic to Catholics and other Christians.

Recently, Notre Dame law professor Amy Barrett, a Catholic nominated to be a Federal judge, faced open accusations from senators that, in her, “dogma lives loudly.” Setting aside interesting issues of politics, the legality of the questioning, or even Dr. Barrett’s holiness, this episode raises important questions for us.

**When people look at us, do they see dogma lived loudly, a “condition...” the president of Notre Dame called “faith”? Would they see saints? If we were accused in court of being Catholic, would there be enough objective evidence to convict us? See the fine YouTube video titled *Evidence* by ODB Films for young Catholics that drives home the need for us all to respond well to the call to be holy, to live and share our Catholic faith daily in all we do.**



*Unleash the Gospel* reminds us that even though we “face unprecedented challenges” in living out our “call to holiness” (p.25), we are to share the Gospel with those around us. Our mission territory is “our own neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and even our own homes” (p.5). Do we live our faith loudly enough to drown out gossip, political correctness and hatred at work or in school? Do we speak up in Truth when people claim abortion is a right? Do we sacrificially share what we have, in imitation of Christ, with those in need? Do we courageously share with family members who have stopped going to Mass how important Mass is for us? Do we invite them to come with us? Could our “unchurched” neighbors tell we are Christians by our love? Do our children know we are praying for them?

Yes, its hard, but we have each other to help us, Jesus in our hearts, and gifts from God. We are all capable of sainthood. By the power of the Holy Spirit we are sent forth as joyful missionary disciples.