

Evangelization 101:3

It Starts With One Person...YOU!

Once again according to PEW researchers, 52% of Catholics think of God as an IMPERSONAL FORCE, not as a PERSONAL GOD whom they could know, and with whom they could build a RELATIONSHIP.

But, It is not merely BELIEF in Christ that we need, but LIFE in Christ where each of us falls in love, grows in love and walks in love with the God that loves us.

The NEW EVANGELIZATION is more for the baptized, than for the unbaptized; for those who received inadequate religious education, but are well secularized. It used to be believed that if we were baptized as infants, received the sacraments, went to Mass, were taught about the beliefs of Catholicism as we grew up, that we would grow up to be adults with a relationship with God. Clearly, this is not happening.

But, HOW DO CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE, WHO BELIEVE IN CHRIST, AND ARE ALREADY SO BUSY WITH THEIR LIVES, CARRY OUT THEIR GOD-GIVEN MISSION TO BRING CHRIST TO OTHERS WITHOUT BECOMING BUSIER?!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE COMPLICATED...IT'S NOT HOW TO ADD, BUT HOW TO INTEGRATE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST!

In 1975, St. Pope Paul VI said, "Modern man listens to witnesses more willingly than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses."

Pope Benedict XII said, "In order to evangelize, one must be evangelized". In other words, the more you know and love Christ and the Church, the more effective you will be in drawing others into knowing and loving Christ and His Church.

So, first we must focus on our own need for deeper knowing and change, while trusting in Christ's Mercy.

Next time...Prayer, Care, Share.

References: "Evangelizing Catholics: A Mission Manual for the New Evangelization" by Scott Hahn
"Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus" by Sherry Weddell
"Fruitful Discipleship: Living the Mission of Jesus in the Church and the World" by Sherry Weddell
"Integrated Evangelization: How to Facilitate the Encounter with Christ" by Msgr. Thomas A Richter