

NEW EVANGELIZATION FOR A RENEWED CHURCH

As our Governments and Health Care Leaders begin a gradual lifting of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, I invite you to look ahead and try to imagine the state of the Church in the near future..., as well as the state of the Faith in our Catholic Christians.

So..., let us reflect and try to answer some questions, in order to be better prepared for the times ahead.

Questions: *1- In your opinion, what will the post- pandemic Church look like? Will anything have changed?*

2- What will the Christians be like? Will they still be the same as before? What has changed?

3- Will the world be able to recognize us as followers of Christ? Why?

4- Have we used this time of isolation as an opportunity to enter into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular prayer time? Have we tried to learn more about our Catholic Faith (Catechism of the Catholic Church)?

5- Have we used this time to read some verses of the Gospels from the Sunday missalette, and pray even one decade of the Rosary with the family?

ANYONE CAN EVANGELIZE (=proclaim the central message of the Gospel). *Yes, did you know that you don't have to have a degree in Theology or in Catholic Education to make Jesus known (evangelize)?*

To evangelize is another word for "proclaiming or speaking the Truth about Jesus", which is the "central message of the Good News: Jesus lived, Jesus died for our sins, Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus will come again."

You may find yourselves in conversation with family members, with friends, with co-workers or with neighbours: you don't have to be shy or timid about your Catholic identity. If challenged, speak the message of Truth with conviction and firm kindness: "Jesus has revealed that God is our merciful Father, that He loves everyone and wants everyone to be happy with Him now on earth and then in

heaven. Jesus taught to love and forgive one another. For this Truth and our salvation Jesus died on the cross, and then rose again from the dead.”

*This is just the longer version of the shorter one that we proclaim at each Mass right after the Consecration: “**Mystery of Faith: We proclaim your death o Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.**”*

Yes, it’s that simple. We have the account of eyewitnesses who lived with Jesus, saw him die and saw him alive again!

*Millions of Jesus’ followers gave their life for this Truth. **The sad fact** is that a number of Catholics, even among those who attend Mass regularly, are not that convinced of this Truth.*

DO NOT MISS THE TIME OF THE LORD’S VISITATION. *The Lord Jesus is using this pandemic to **visit** his people, to **wake us up** and to invite us to place Him at the **centre** in our life and in our heart, to **give Him priority** over and above all else, because all else is transitory: here today and gone in the next moment, as we are experiencing at the present time.*

EVANGELIZATION or LIVING THE GOSPEL VALUES BEGINS WITH YOU AND ME.

Let ask the Lord for the gift of Faith, let us make a decision for Jesus, let us put Him in the first place in all that we do, and let us live and act as He would.

“I have told you this, so that my own joy may be in you- and your joy be complete.” (John 15:11)

For your spiritual growth, you may want to check out the following websites:

Catholic.com ----- wordonfire.org ----- thereasonforourhope.org ---- wau.org

Deacon Diego

