



Nov. 2018

# BREAKING BREAD

## What Makes a "Dynamic Catholic"?

The activities we do repeatedly determine our character and destiny. This is true at any age, activity, career or status. We become consumed in our experiences.

"The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" by Matthew Kelly identifies characteristics that help define people that have a strong relationship with their faith. These signs are not the only characteristics, but they do seem to represent habits or traits that engaged "Dynamic Catholics" share.

### **Daily Commitment to Prayer**

God is not a distant force, but rather a personal friend or advisor! The challenge is that we wouldn't know that if we do not take the time to talk.

I imagine you talk (or text, tweet, snap or message) those you love on a daily or weekly basis. Those interactions keep you close even when you are not with each other. The same is true about our relationship with God. The fulfillment of daily prayer can allow us the ability to be drawn closer to each other and deepen that relationship.

### **Commitment to Study – We are continuous learners.**

Jesus doesn't just want followers. He wants disciples. Being a disciple requires sitting at the feet of Christ to learn. Who or what are you learning from today? It may be our favorite talk show, news program, musician, speaker, author or blog post. Who do you follow on Facebook, Twitter or Snap Chat. We are already learners by habit. God calls us to study our faith as devoutly as any of these other sources. Consider adding a source of faith to our regular areas of study.

### **Generosity of Ourselves**

We are filled with a spirit of service and are generous with others. Generosity is not only an offering of our time and our money, but with love, appreciation, praise, virtue and encouragement. Generosity becomes part of the heart of our faith and proof that the teachings of Christ have taken root in our lives.

Being generous takes practice. Start with patience, kindness and compassion. From there God will assist you in identifying how you are called for greater things.

### **Evangelization – Invite others to grow spiritually by sharing the love of God with them.**

Perhaps we need to allow the earlier signs to penetrate our spirit first but developing a vibrant spiritual life will allow us to share our experience with others. The process of evangelization may start without you even knowing it. Evangelization can be sharing your time teaching a class or leading a group session, but it can also be done incidentally over a cup of coffee or in line at the grocery store. It is simply sharing the joy you have for your faith with someone else.

The beautiful thing about these four items is that they are easily interrelated. If you commit to reading 5 pages of a good spiritual book each day (Study), your prayer life would no doubt improve (Prayer), you would be more likely to talk with others about the ideas you are reading and praying about (Evangelization), and the more you know of God and your faith the more likely you are to be generous with God and neighbor (Generosity).

by Tim Nolan

~ *Growing in Discipleship* ~

"By any other name..." What used to be called 'Religious Education' then 'Christian Formation', we could also call 'Growing in Discipleship'. Here are some rather 'cool' insights that have come up recently as we continue to grow in discipleship:

Thoughts on Generosity: "The root of the word 'generosity' is the Latin for 'race, kind or kin.' True generosity expresses kinship. It recognizes that rich and poor alike are the beloved children of God, equally human and worthy of respect. Generosity reveals our true relationship in God's eyes – we are kin, we are connected to each other; the connection is beautifully designed by God; we are destined to become one. Grace opens our eyes. Generosity invites us to join hands."  
~ from a *Spotlight on Gratitude* with *Monica Meagher*



Here's a new concept: the Gospel of Subtraction ~ with the Beatitudes as a roadmap of happiness through subtraction. Think about it! The first and foundational beatitude says "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." It calls for the subtraction of ego honor... to allow for radical dependence on God. Or "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land" points to the subtraction of power... to experience strength in God.

~ from *Rich Harter's Spotlight Presentation on the Gospel of Subtraction*



"A Christian is one who sees Christ everywhere."

"Loving someone well over years makes you more yourself."

"Spirit wants to incarnate itself. Matter wants to be God."

~ from *Richard Rohr on the Path of Descent / The Path of Transformation*



"Beholding lies at the heart of the spiritual life. In fact, it is the first step toward contemplation. What is contemplation but the prayerful attentiveness to something – a word in scripture, the blueness of an iris, a movement of one's spirit, the song of a chick-a-dee, the sound of rain tapping on a porch roof."  
~ from *Melannie Svoboda's book*

*When the Rain Speaks: Celebrating God's Presence in Nature*





## Mission Support

Friends,

*During my entire time at Good Shepherd Parish, going back to 1984, we have supported the archdiocesan World Mission Office by hosting a missionary at least once a year to come and speak to us. The goal set by the World Mission Office is not to raise money. The goal is not dissimilar to our own ministry here at Good Shepherd who partners with our sisters and brothers in Ellacuria El Salvador. The goal is to encourage catechesis so that the faithful in our parish learn about their sisters and brothers in other countries, come to understand their lives lived in Christ, and form lasting relationships. In the process we learn from their faith journey, and they learn from ours.*

*This year, in early October, we welcomed for the third time Fr. Patrick Kroteh, a missionary priest from Las Palmas Liberia. (Las Palmas is located on the West coast of Africa.) On each visit Fr. Patrick has educated us that, as result of civil war and then the Ebola virus, the streets in all of Liberia became so unsafe that the government shut down all schools for 16 years. Think about that. 16 years! An entire generation had no formal education. The result on the culture and the country has been devastating. Given the subsidence of both the Civil War and the Ebola virus, Fr. Patrick and his fellow missionaries are now in the early stages of re-establishing primary education via parochial schools in Catholic parishes.*

*Given the number of visits here by Fr. Patrick, my wife Robin and I have gotten to know him and now call him friend. Fr. Patrick considers this entire parish his friend. Through our continuing prayers and support may we all become virtual friends with the children in his homeland. (The uniforms you see in the picture, as well as backpacks, school supplies, and tuitions, were made possible by our past support)*

—Deacon Sandy



# Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

September 10, 2018

## Pastoral Council Goals for 2018/2019

1. Clarify how/when/why we interact & what we do together with cluster counterparts at the Council level at St. James.
2. Increase the number of families or individuals involved in ministries (not more ministries, more people involved).
3. Increase the diversity of Good Shepherd.
4. Increase the community atmosphere of Good Shepherd.
5. How do we make being involved with different parts of the parish more appealing?
6. Would like more professional music.
7. Happy Holy Hour (or Holy Happy Hour?)
8. Have Council create a standing committee to work with the staff to address communication needs.
9. Be more proactive in approaching people in the parish; be more visible in the parish as Pastoral Council representatives;

## Worship space upgrade project

- History
  - Stelplflug Memorial Designated Gift
  - Invited Conrad Schmidt to Worship Space
  - Consulted with family: their biggest wish is to let in more natural light on east wall, possibly with the windows from rendering purchased at a discount from Conrad Schmidt
  - Gathered ideas from both Councils, staff, PWC
  - Voted and Prioritized (See spreadsheet)—create an accessible storage space for music group, flooring, audio updated, etc
  - Formed a small group task force - reported findings: small group recommended that we do not lose the stained glass windows (Conrad Schmidt recommended putting them on glass narthex wall), let in more natural light on east wall, do not change the existing baptismal font
- Project if approved could be in phases with possible capital campaigns
- Formation of a small task force (3-5 people) needed to carry project forward (how to communicate to the parish, next steps needed, costs, consult with three contractors, consult with previous small group). Council was asked for volunteers for this small group. The following people will be in this group: Lisa Nimmer, Pat Sievers, Mike Crownover, Judy Koening. In addition, Sr. Joan and Deacon Sandy Sites will be consulted.
- Archdiocese Prayer and Worship was contacted and indicated they see no major issues and feel the archbishop would approve
- When a formal plan is ready, we will need to go to Archdiocese Buildings and Grounds Committee

## Administrative/Housekeeping topics:

Updates given before Masses—4th Sunday of the Month, purpose is for visibility of council members, brief update from council meetings, (2-3 key ideas)

## Commission/Committee Questions

Each Council Member is expected to review the minutes from each prior to the meeting and come with any questions you have.

Stewardship clarification: Feather banners are marketing flags

-Pastoral care: George Koleas commented that cards sent to parishioners is appreciated

## Parish Director Report

Fr. Marty status—in good spirits, needs more rest. Other Capuchins will be helping out.

Parish Gatherings 10/6 at 5:45 pm and 10/11 at 7 pm. The format will be a brief summary of what is going well in the parish...then Q & A. Parishioners will have the opportunity to submit additional written observations of things going well and questions.

Clergy Sex Abuse Scandal and "Rebuild My Church" Homily. Council encouraged to pray on this and it will be an agenda item at the October Pastoral Council meeting.