



Pastor's Column

St. Peter Catholic Church

July 8, 2018 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parochial Year for Evangelization: July Tip of the Month

With Corpus Christi kicking off the month of June and also Peter's pastoral year ending that same weekend (June 2/3), we missed our June Tip of the Month for our Parochial Year For Evangelization. And so, for July, we get a two-for-one deal!

July Tip #1: share your faith story. The challenge for us in this regard (should we choose to accept this challenge) is to take some time in prayer to put into writing what Christ has done for you and what He means to you, and how participation in the life of His Church has changed your life, highlighting significant moments of conversion and/or renewal of your faith and relationship with God. When the time is right, share this testimony or story of faith with the family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker or other person you have befriended - and take every opportunity to practice sharing key moments of this journey of faith with a stranger whom God might place in your path for the sake of a respectful and caring witness.

A great prayer practice related to this, and which will help us to accept this challenge, is to journal as we pray. Actually writing down what blessings God has given us, what joys we want to share with God in prayer, what sorrows, what hopes and challenges, prayer requests as well as our prayers of thanksgiving – all of that makes for great fodder and reflection for our prayer journals.

And then out of that comes the narrative that we can begin to compose when we want to share our faith story.

Related to all of this is July Tip #2: present the "Christ-event" or kerygma without fear or hesitation, and with great love and humility. We remember that the "Christ-event," the kerygma, is the "faith story" of Jesus Christ. When we have reflected upon our own faith story, have journaled about it and have begun composing a narrative of it, it becomes remarkably easy for us to reflect upon *the* story (the Sacred Story) of Jesus Christ. And when we are comfortable knowing that, we find it easier then to share that Sacred Story with others. That is the kerygma; that is evangelization.

To share the kerygma with others, we strive to discern the openness of others to hearing the Good News of God's plan of salvation for us, and we respectfully present the core of the Gospel message (the kerygma) in a clear, concise and convincing manner, one that touches the heart and mind of others and disposes them to want to know Jesus Christ personally. "Kerygma" in Greek refers to the first proclamation of Jesus Christ as the only Savior of the world to folks who have never heard it, or who have not heard it in a way that has truly convinced them and led them to make a commitment to Christ and to life within His Body, the Church.

Our saint of the month is St. Mary Magdalene, whose Feast is July 22. She was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, Who exorcised her of seven demons (Lk 8:2). When the Lord freed her, healed her, and saved her, she could not help it but follow Him whole-heartedly, focusing her life solely on Him and speaking only of Him to all around her. Her faith story was so entwined in the Sacred Story of Jesus Christ (the kerygma) that she became the Apostle to the Apostles; as she was the first to enter the empty tomb and thus give witness to the Resurrection.

~ Fr. Lewis

