

# Session 2

## “Called to Holiness”

Christina Semmens  
Thursday Afternoon

# The Challenge We Have

“Young people are the window through which the future enters the world. They are the window, and so they present us with great challenges...”



“This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be; to pass on to them lasting values that make life worth living; to give them a transcendent horizon for their thirst for authentic happiness in their creativity for the good; to give them the legacy of a world worthy of human life; and to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone.”

--Pope Francis, Address, July 22, 2013

# The “Stuff” of the Catholic Faith

- Sacred Scripture
- Sacred Tradition
  - Catechism
  - Magisterium
    - Church Fathers, Councils, Papal Encyclicals, Apostolic Exhortations...
- Liturgy and Sacraments
- Prayer
- Moral Teachings
- Living a life of Discipleship

How should we go about making this  
real for our young people?

# Is it a matter of having the proper knowledge?

- Annual Tests and Evaluations
- Catechetical Institutes and Certifications
- Scripture, Catechism and Theology Studies
- Degrees in Theology, Religious Instruction, Pastoral Work, Ministry, etc...

# Or is it a matter of skill?

## Five Things that Great Teachers Do

(taken from Parade magazine article, “What Makes a Great Teacher”)

- Can right a “wrong” —are able to determine how a student makes the mistake, and then guide them to the right answer
- They never say “Shhh!” —are able to provide specific, and positive, directions
- They encourage deeper thinking—Teachers ask questions that allow the students to participate in finding the solution
- They “cold call” with purpose—Teachers call on students who are not participating to ensure all students stay engaged
- They show more than they tell—model the thinking and actions necessary in order to help students make the mental leap to accomplish the task being given.

# Is it a matter of skill? cont

## 8 Tips to Becoming a More Dynamic Educator

(taken from article by David Andrews, Our Sunday Visitor newspaper, Sept 7, 2014)

- Show your love for what you do—best learning happens when we are excited and enthusiastic
- Bring your students into your academic life—work with students on large projects—everyone is involved
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes—fear of failure keeps us from figuring out what really works—value in failure in that students learn from how we handle stuff when things go wrong
- Pray—pray for our students, our teaching, our leadership
- Always be ready to learn—“to be interesting, you have to be interested”
- Be demanding but kind—balance of justice and mercy—students will rise to the demands (even exceeding them)—need to be room for mistakes and circumstances beyond their control
- Think of the end—keep the end to which you aspire in mind—are you preparing them for the rest of their lives (and the life to come)?
- Be humble—not our work, it's God's—teaching is about relationship

# Is it a combination or a recipe?

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{The right knowledge} \\ + \text{ the right skills} \\ \hline = \text{ Great Catechists?} \end{array}$$

OR

## *The “Perfect Catechist” Recipe*

Combine 1 part knowledge with 1 part skill,  
add a dash of grace, stir with prayer and hope  
for the best?

# Or perhaps it is something else?

Bearing in mind what the Church has taught throughout the centuries, especially its emphasis on the “call to holiness” of all the baptized since the Second Vatican Council, I contend that for us to make the Catholic faith real for young people today is by starting with the end in mind...

## SAINTHOOD



# What exactly is Sainthood?

A saint...

- Looks upon the face of God in Heaven
  - Nothing “unclean” enters the presence of God
  - Therefore, to be with God in heaven means that we are “perfect” —free from sin, “cleansed in the blood of the Lamb”
  - HOLY
- What is holiness?
    - Transforming union with God

Therefore, to become saints, we must become holy.

So how do we go about doing that?

# Easy Way to Become a Saint

- *An Easy Way to Become a Saint*--Fr. Paul O'Sullivan, OP
  - Love God
  - Do Everything for the Love of God
  - Actively practice the Catholic faith

Seems simple. So why isn't the world full of saints?

# Why no saints?

Sherry Weddell contends in *FID* that there are no saints because the majority of Catholics never experience conversion and/or spiritual growth.

- Five Stages of Spiritual Growth outlined in *FID*
  - Initial Trust
  - Spiritual Curiosity
  - Spiritual Openness
  - Spiritual Seeking
  - Intentional Discipleship

# Five Stages of Spiritual Growth in *FID*

- *Initial Trust*
  - Able to have a positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church. Not the same as an active, personal faith. Without trust, no ability to move closer to God.
- *Spiritual Curiosity*
  - Intrigued by or desiring to know more about Jesus or some aspect of the Christian faith. Ranges from awareness to intense and proactive. Is essentially passive, but more than trust. Not yet open to personal change.

# Five Stages listed in *FID* cont

- *Spiritual Openness*

- Critical point when a person acknowledges to him/herself and God that he/she is open to personal and spiritual change. One of the most difficult transitions as it can feel dangerous, crazy and out of control. Not a commitment to change, but an openness to the possibility of change.

- *Spiritual Seeking*

- A move from being passive to being an active seeker to know the God that is calling. Is engaged in an urgent spiritual quest, seeking to know whether he/she can make a commitment to Christ and His Church.

# Five Stages listed in *FID* cont

- *Intentional Discipleship*
  - This is the decision to “drop one’s nets” and make a conscious commitment to follow Jesus in the midst of His church as an obedient disciple and to re-order one’s life accordingly.

Ms. Weddell stresses that these five stages are not law, and it is not inevitable that one will pass through all the stages in succession, nor even pass through any. Also someone might waffle or regress between stages, or even leapfrog about via dramatic intuition or by a gift of the Holy Spirit. Sadly, some people never even reach the stage of trust due to factors that include everything from personal trauma to exposure to terrible Christian witness by those who proclaim to be believers.

*framework* for  
the spiritual journey  
according to *FID*

trust



curiosity



openness



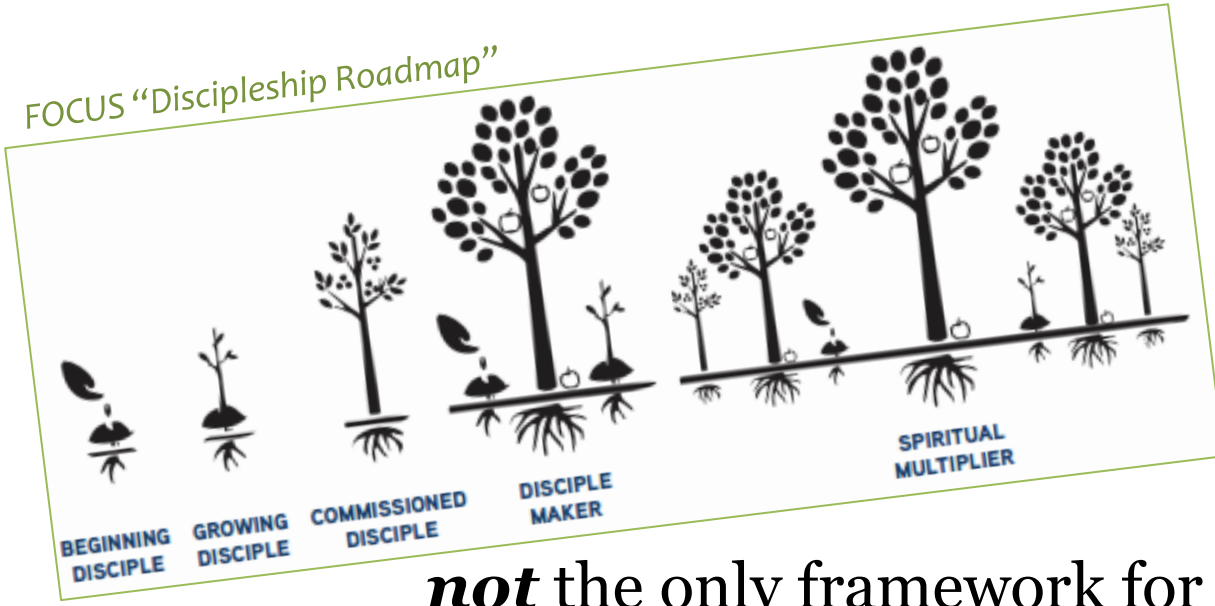
seeking



intentional  
discipleship

the **5** thresholds  
of conversion

FOCUS "Discipleship Roadmap"



**not** the only framework for coming to "intentional discipleship"



Renew International "Spiral"

The Evangelical Catholic "Baseball Diamond"





# Growth in the Spiritual Life as taught by the Church—St Teresa of Avila

