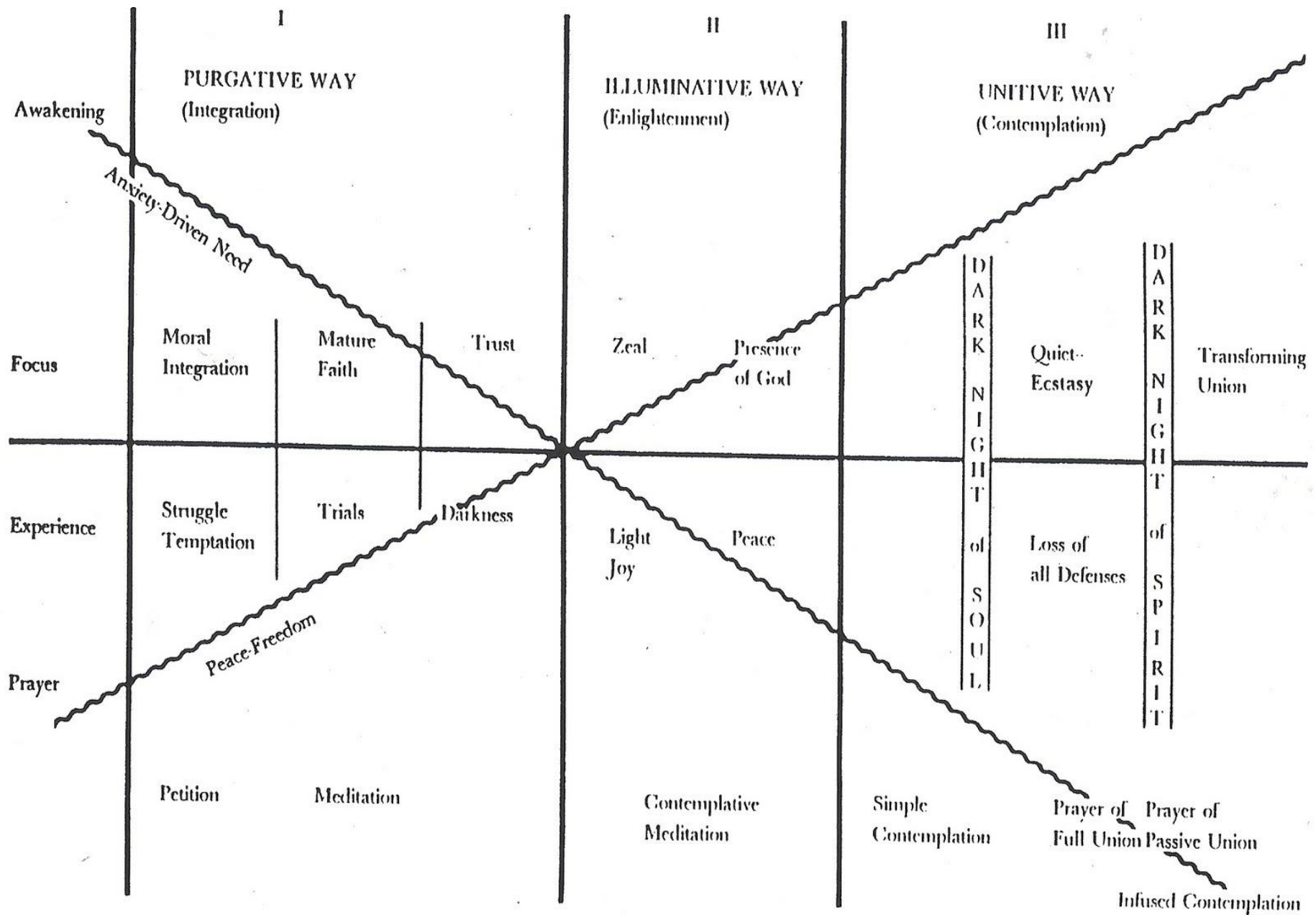


Degrees of Charity	Virtues	Gifts	Purifications	Prayers	Teresa's Mansion
<p>Beginners (Purgative Way) Ascetical Life</p>	<p>Initial virtues, first degree of charity, temperance, chastity, patience, first degrees of humility</p>	<p>Gifts of the Holy Ghost rather latent, inspirations at rare intervals, slight aptitude as yet to profit by them. The soul is especially conscious of its activity</p>	<p>Active purification of the senses and of the spirit, or exterior and interior mortification</p>	<p>Acquired prayer: vocal prayer, discursive prayer affective prayer, which becomes more and more simple, called the prayer of active recollection.</p>	<p>First and Second Mansion</p>
Dark Night of the Senses					
<p>Proficients (Illuminative Way) Threshold of Mystical Life</p>	<p>Solid virtues, second degree of charity, obedience, more profound humility, spirit of the counsels</p>	<p>The gifts of the Holy Ghost begin to manifest themselves, especially the three interior gifts of fear, knowledge and piety. The soul, more docile now, profits more from inspirations and interior illuminations.</p>	<p>Passive purification of the senses, under the influence especially of the gifts of fear and knowledge. Concomitant trials. Entrance into the illuminative way.</p>	<p>Initial infused prayer, isolated acts of infused contemplation in the course of the acquired prayer of recollection; then, prayers of supernatural recollection and of arid or consoled quiet. The gift of piety</p>	<p>Third and Fourth Mansion</p>
Dark Night of the Spirit					
<p>The Perfect (Unitive Way) Mystical Life</p>	<p>Eminent and heroic virtues, third degree of charity, perfect humility, great spirit of faith, abandonment, almost unalterable patience.</p>	<p>The higher gifts manifest themselves more notably and frequently. The soul is dominated by the Holy Ghost. Great passivity in this regard, which does not exclude the activity of the virtues.</p>	<p>Purification of the spirit under the influence especially of the gift of understanding. Concomitant trials in which are manifested the gifts of fortitude and counsel. Entrance into the perfect unitive way</p>	<p>Infused prayers of simple union, of complete union (sometimes ecstatic) of transforming union, under the more and more marked influence of the gift of wisdom. Concomitant favors.</p>	<p>Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Mansion</p>



Stages of Spiritual Development Chart by Fr. Benedict Groeschel

Physical Lifecycle



Spiritual Lifecycle



Quick Reality Check

Unfortunately, in our current climate today, it is not very likely that even an “intentional disciple” as described in FID has journeyed very far along the path to holiness (Purgative-Illuminative-Unitive) as described and taught by the great spiritual masters of the Church.

What does that mean?

Simply, that even if someone has moved through the “5 Stages of Spiritual Growth” as described in *FID*, they really are only at the *beginning* of the path to holiness (at the Spiritual Journey starting line).

Few are even beginning to “run the race”

Since it takes a lifetime to make progress on the journey, logic would seem to be that the sooner we help people get to that starting line, the better the chances for the emergence of saints in our midst.

So what’s not happening?

Why aren’t people getting to the
“starting line”?

“Baptized, but not Evangelized”

In his encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict wrote that, “...many of our brothers and sisters are baptized, but are not sufficiently evangelized.”

Pope Francis expands upon this concept in *Evangelii Gaudium* when he writes, “In today’s world, we are subject to a blizzard of temptations that lead us away from authentic happiness. Whenever we become selfish, seeking pleasure and profit only for ourselves, we can no longer hear God’s voice. Many baptized Christians are led away from the faith by this.”

“From the Heart of the Gospel”

Then later he tells us, “It isn’t our task to be obsessed with insistently teaching a disjointed set of doctrines. We must concentrate on the essentials, on what is most appealing and beautiful in our message. The rest will follow.”
(*EG*, 35)

Therefore, the proposal I lay before you today is this...

The REAL issue of effective catechesis is
NOT about how to teach the faith.

Rather, it is about how to effectively *evangelize*.

What is evangelization?

- *Evangelization* means “to preach the gospel, to share the Good News, to convert”
- *Conversion* means “a change in which one adopts a new religion, attitude or way of being”

So what, then, is the “*new evangelization*”?

It is for *every Christian* to go out and share the Good News by witnessing to the Faith in the very *ordinary circumstances* of their life *each and every day*.

- The New Evangelization calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. The focus of the New Evangelization calls all Christians to be converted and then go forth to evangelize.
- Evangelization is not what we do, but who we ARE.

“Preach the Gospel always, use words when necessary.”

What do evangelizers look like?

Scott Hahn--adapted from *Evangelizing Catholics: Mission Manual for the New Evangelization*

Evangelizers:

- Talk to others about the faith
- Tell their testimony
- Build long-term relationships with others for evangelization and discipleship
- Have confidence in their identity as Catholics
- Serve those who don't believe
- Pass the faith on to the next generation
- Have a road map for missionary work



HUNGER GAMES?

**VOLUNTEERED AS
TRIBUTE IN REAL LIFE.**

Formation and Evangelization

Compare the five stages in *FID* with the four stages of evangelization given by Terry Barber in his book, *How to Share Your Faith with Anyone...*

Five Stages in *FID*

Initial Trust

Spiritual Curiosity

Spiritual Openness

Spiritual Seeking

Intentional Discipleship

Four Stages in Barber

Attention

Interest

Desire

Action

Sharing the Faith

Terry Barber's "Eight Laws of Effectively Sharing the Faith with Anyone"

- 1) Keep it simple.
- 2) Keep him saying yes.
- 3) Be enthusiastic.
- 4) Call him by name.
- 5) Show and then tell.
- 6) Always agree.
- 7) Ask questions.
- 8) Practice virtue.

So are we teaching or evangelizing?

“Faith is caught, not taught.”

“To inspire parents, students, and parishioners, we need to remember that our best teaching device is not the best programs, competent personnel, overseeing instruction for orthodoxy, but rather is our own personal commitment and holiness.”

---Msgr Own Campion, *The Priest* magazine, Sept, 2014 issue

Why don't we evangelize?

“It is not the negative forces of civilization that are the great problem of our time, but rather the lethargy of its good people.”

--Pope Francis, *Only Love Can Save Us*,

Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 2011

“It is not creativity, however pastoral it may be, or meetings or planning that ensure our fruitfulness, even if these are greatly helpful. But what assures our fruitfulness is our being faithful to Jesus.”

--Pope Francis, Homily, World Youth Day, July 27, 2013

Our plan or God's plan?

“In short, we must all abandon old attitudes or the idea that we have tried something once and it did not work well. I call on everyone to be bold and creative in finding ways to invite and welcome in God's name. We have to work together to find the means of doing this! Let's rethink the structures, style, and methods of our work.”

–Evangelii Gaudium, 33

Is our Foundation built on rock or sand?

Today's Gospel reading, Matthew 7:21, 24-27:

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

Go and listen...

“To believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in everything means realizing that he seeks to penetrate every human situation and all social bonds....Evangelization is meant to cooperate with this liberating work of Spirit.”

--Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (178)

Whether you recognize it or not, you are an important player in the world. You have a key role in the unfolding of God’s master plan. Simply by being who you are, you are changing history. Your words, your actions, your demeanor are helping to shape other people and their perception of the Lord.

God has placed you here for a reason. He knows what you are capable of doing. So be quiet. Spend time with our Lord and ask:

Am I becoming the instrument that God created me to be?

Am I cooperating with His Spirit so I can help Him change the world?