

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

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Sunday, October 30, 2022

“Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” (An ancient Chinese proverb)

Let's talk more about All Things New. A deeper reflection. A prophetic reflection. Everything I'm about to say is truth and I give it to you with my pastoral love for you, our parish community, and the Universal Church.

At the Listening Session someone said, “All Things New is just a cost cutting measure. What is the Archdiocese doing about Evangelization?”

All Things New is not just a cost cutting measure for the sake of cutting costs. Parishes and schools are consolidating because the church of 2022 is not the church of 1952. You saw the data- you know this. Contrary to popular belief, the Church is not rolling in the dough. If it was, they would have given Mary Queen of Peace \$600,000 a long time ago so we could put new roofs on the rectory and church, do needed tuck pointing around the windows in both buildings, and pay all of our teachers a just wage. So, friends, let's guard against this cynical, dismissive outlet. It is, ultimately, unhelpful.

More importantly, let's talk about Evangelization. My favorite and probably clearest definition I've heard is this: “Evangelization is one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.” Evangelization is me telling someone else what I found and continue to find in my relationship with Jesus Christ and my membership in the Roman Catholic Church. That's it. It's not about dogma, doctrine, rules or customs. It's free of cynicism, sarcasm, and a wishy-washy approach to things of the Spirit. Instead it's a heartfelt, personal and sincere explanation and reason, meaning and purpose of what I find in Him and His Church. So, we need to answer a question for ourselves: “Do you know where you found this Bread and what does It and what He and His Church mean to you?” And then: “Who are you telling?”

The work of Evangelization is not the work of the Archdiocese as though we delegate that to them, and all we do is show up on Sunday, punch the Sacramental ticket, pay, pray and obey. The work of Evangelization, telling another beggar where to find bread, is my work. And it's yours, too! I've said this time and again and I will say it again and again: we are all responsible for knowing where our brothers and sisters are on Sunday morning! We are all charged with inviting them to our Altar, in our church, with our community. Those who are absent from our Eucharistic Assembly may have reasons, and friends- I stand ready and willing to talk about any of those reasons at any time. (Some have taken me up on this and since I've started writing my notes and making my calls to those who have left the Church, I've had two great conversations that ended with those people rejoining our Eucharistic Assembly! Praise God!) These members of our parish community are not far from us: they live on our streets; we socialize with them; we vacation with them; we see them around town. We don't have to stand on street corners and preach on top of a soap box. Although, that definitely one way to go about it.

"Closer to Christ by Loving and Serving as Missionary Disciples"



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So, friends, “the Archdiocese” is charging us with the work of Evangelization. It is our work to do. It is all our work to do. When was the last time you told another beggar where to find bread?

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