

1.9.2016

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

How to be a Witness of Christ

Karl Kurple is a member of the Parish since 2013. He will present a brief introduction to the 2012 book “Forming Intentional Disciples” and lead discussion designed to help us reflect on our various relationships and interactions with others in being a witness for Christ. You will be given strategies on how to improve and enrich those relationships.

Do not save your loving speeches for your friends till they are dead. Do not write them on their tombstones, speak them rather now instead.

Karl will share some insights on this important book that is influencing the work of Evangelization here at St. Hilary. These inspired words will help us to understand the context of the St. Hilary Mission Statement.

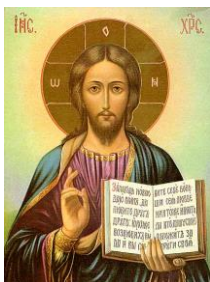
St. Hilary Mission Statement: “Transforming lives for Jesus Christ...through vibrant worship, lifelong faith formation, social action and evangelization!”

Let us learn some ways to help us understand the relationship of lifelong faith formation and evangelization.

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus is our Savior and invite Him into our heart of hearts? Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.

Five Thresholds of Conversion

1. Initial Trust
2. Spiritual curiosity
3. Spiritual openness
4. Spiritual seeking
5. Intentional Discipleship



Luke 8:15- Parable of the Sower Explained

But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.

The Word of the Lord.

Catechism

2720 - The Battle of Prayer

We pray as we live, because we live as we pray. If we do not want to act habitually according to the Spirit of Christ, neither can we pray habitually in His name. The “spiritual battle” of the Christian’s new life is inseparable from the battle of prayer.

904 - The Participation of Lay People in Christ's Prophetic Office

Christ... fulfills this prophetic office, not only by the hierarchy... but also by the laity. He accordingly both establishes them as witnesses and provides them with the sense of the faith and the grace of the word.

To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer.



Modern Comment

Karl Kurple: INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

There are three main goals for this presentation.

1. Lifelong Faith Formation
2. Understanding our Baptism Call to be Disciples
3. First Step in Being A Disciple

Additional Resources

1. Weddell, Sherry. Forming Intentional Disciples. 2012 Our Sunday Visitor Press
2. Barron, Bishop Robert. Discussion of "Forming Intentional Disciples." (11 minute video). <http://www.wordonfire.org/resources/video/intentionaldiscipleship/2342>
3. Pope Francis. The Joy of the Gospel. (Evangelii Gaudium).
4. Pope John Paul II. On Permanent Validity of the Church's Missionary Mandate. (Redemptoris Missio.)
5. Pope Paul VI. "On Evangelization in the Modern World."

Questions to Focus on:

1. What is the most meaningful faith experience you had in 2015? Based on this experience what do you plan to do in 2016 to grow in faith?

2. What steps can we take to become a better disciple of Jesus Christ?

3. In what specific examples, can you share from your life experience as a Catholic your prayer life has helped you overcome obstacles in your life?

Men's Group Calendar

1/23/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
2/13/2016	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
2/27/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
3/12/2016	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
3/26/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
4/9/2016	CMFNEO ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Holiday Inn Rockside 8AM-4PM
4/23/2016	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library

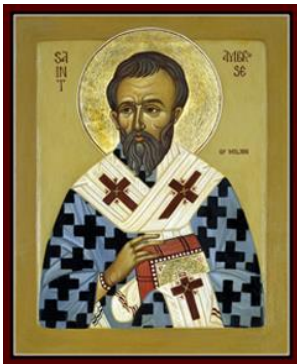


A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.

"Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." Pope Paul VI

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group

Saints are holy people and regular human persons who lived extraordinary lives. Saints responded to God's invitation to use their unique gifts. They are teachers and guides for us. God calls each one of us to lead a life of exceptional holiness.



"Paul tells you that every place is a place of prayer, though our Savior says: go into your "room" to pray. You must understand this is not a room enclosed by walls that imprison your body, but the room that is within you, the room where you hide your thoughts, where you keep your affections.

This room of prayer is always with you wherever you are, and it is always a secret room, where only God can see you."

Saint Ambrose

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to listen for God's will in my life by:

- Creating a daily prayer practice.
- Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence.
- Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends.
- Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.
- Practice Forgiveness.



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who I meet in my comings and goings. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

 **Give Samples of Jesus away Daily: Mercy, Kindness, Justice, Joy, Forgiveness, Compassion, Peace ...and most of all Love.**

A Prayer of Forgiveness – Precursor to Becoming an Intentional Disciple

Merciful God, your living word tells us that you not only forgive our offenses, you forget them. I have a hard time with both. Forgetting past hurts and those who have hurt me is almost impossible. I have never been, nor ever want to be, a person without a memory.

But I do want to be able, to forgive those who have hurt me, wronged me, disappointed me, failed me, and even damaged me. I want to forgive them, because I too have hurt many in the course of my life – and I want to be forgiven even as I forgive.

Accepting forgiveness and forgiving others go hand in hand.

My Lord, I know that forgiveness is a choice, a decision. I may not feel forgiving, yet in and through this prayer, I choose to forgive, especially the following person(s):

(Name them.)

I may have to pray this prayer over and over. Old attitudes and grudges do not go away easily.

Help me too, God to forgive myself for real or imagined failures. Show me how to let go of the past, to stop beating up on myself, so I can eliminate my self-hatred as I grow in self-love.

Dear Jesus, let me become a more forgiving person – toward others and my self—so that I may experience healing, peace, and renewal, and be a Blessing to others. Amen.