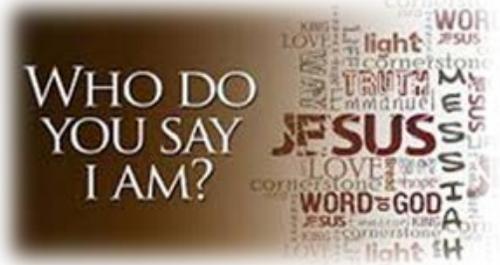


LIVING FAITH

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 23, 2020



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 16: 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples, and then Peter, two questions that he asks us, modern-day disciples, today. Each one of us is asked, as those first disciples were asked, to look into our own hearts, and answer His questions for ourselves. The questions are simple, but they are very important:

- What do others say about Jesus? Who do people say Jesus is?
- Who do you say Jesus is?

When you have a personal relationship with somebody, when you love somebody else, you know them in a way that others do not. You see beneath the surface, and you give them permission to see beneath your surface. You say and reveal things to loved ones that you would not say or reveal to those who are not so close to you. It’s the same with a relationship with Jesus. Who is Jesus? Jesus is love, the love of God in human flesh. He wants to share that love with you, so that you can share His love with others. Our world needs that love right now.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- How do people—your friends, family, or co-workers-- talk about Jesus?
- What do people say about Jesus? Who do they say He is?
- Who has talked to you about Jesus? Who told you who Jesus is? What did they tell you?
- What about you? Who do YOU say Jesus is?
- What do you think is the heart of Jesus’ message?

THE CHURCH TEACHES

THE DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS (2020)

PUBLISHED BY THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION
WHAT ARE THE “MOMENTS” OR “STAGES” IN THE PROCESS OF EVANGELIZATION?

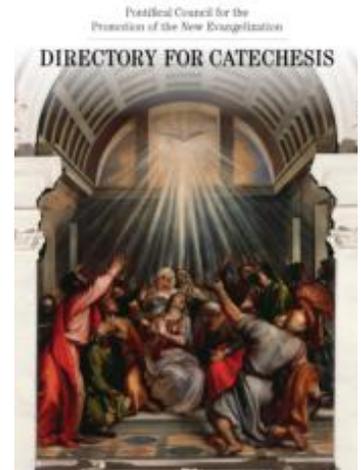
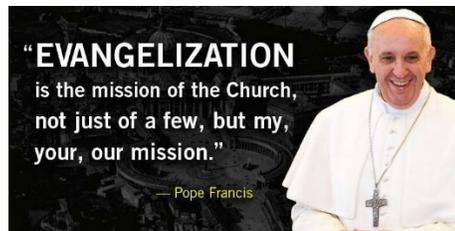
As we have seen over the past two weeks, Section 1 of the new *Directory for Catechesis* begins with the question: “What is Faith?” and then moves on to ask “What is evangelization?” This week, we will explore how the *Directory for Catechesis* describes the stages and moments of evangelization.

The Directory tells us that **MISSIONARY ACTIVITY** is the first stage of evangelization. In paragraph 33, we learn that the “moment” or stage of Missionary Activity involves:

-WITNESS: The disciples of Christ... sharing life with all, bear witness even without words to the joy of the Gospel that elicits questions.

Missionary Activity also involves:

-FIRST PROCLAMATION, directed toward seekers of God, non-believers, the indifferent, members of other religions, persons who have a superficial or distorted understanding of the Christian faith, Christians with a faith that has become weak or who have fallen away from the Church. The aim is to stimulate interest and create dispositions for the reception of faith.



FOR YOUR REFLECTION:
How were you evangelized?
Who introduced you to Jesus Christ?

How did that relationship with Jesus Christ take root and grow?

Paragraph 34 tells us that **INITIATORY CATECHESIS** (corresponding to the periods of Catechumenate and Purification and Enlightenment in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the second “moment” or stage in the process of Evangelization. Initiatory catechesis is at the service of the profession of faith. Those who have already met Jesus Christ feel the growing desire to get to know him more intimately, expressing a first inclination toward the Gospel. A progressive change in outlook and morals is fostered in the Christian community through:

- Catechesis,
- Liturgical ceremonies,
- Works of charity, and
- Experience of community.

The third stage in the process of Evangelization is **PASTORAL ACTION**. Paragraph 35 tells us that the goal of Pastoral Action is to nourish the faith of the baptized and helps them in the Christian life’s ongoing process of conversion.

Paragraph 36 tells us that throughout the process of evangelization the ministry of the word of God is carried out, so that the Gospel message may reach all.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

SAINTS MONICA AND AUGUSTINE: STORY OF A MOTHER AND SON

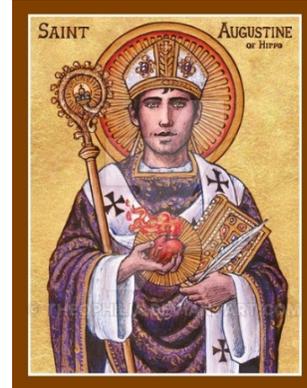


ST. MONICA (322-387)
AUGUST 27

Because of her name and place of birth, Monica is assumed to have been born in Tagaste, Algeria). She was married to Patricius, a Roman pagan, who held an official position in Tagaste. Patricius had a violent temper. Monica's alms, deeds and prayer habits annoyed Patricius, but it is said that he always held her in respect.

Monica had three children who survived infancy: sons Augustine and Navigius and daughter Perpetua. Because she was unable to persuade Patricius to allow her to have the children baptized, she grieved heavily when Augustine fell ill. In her distress she pleaded with Patricius to allow Augustine to be baptized; he agreed, but then withdrew this consent when the boy recovered.

Augustine turned to wayward ways, and Monica despaired for him. She visited a bishop who consoled her with the now famous words, "the child of those tears shall never perish." Monica followed her wayward son to Rome, and Milan, where he had gone secretly. Here she found St. Ambrose, a captivating preacher and spiritual guide, and through him she ultimately had the joy of seeing Augustine convert to Christianity after years of resistance. Monica died six months later at Ostia, the port near Rome.



ST. AUGUSTINE (354-430)
AUGUST 28

Augustine was born at Tagaste, in Algeria. He was the son of Monica and Patricius, a Roman African. Augustine was an early Christian theologian and philosopher whose writings influenced the development of Western Christianity and Western philosophy. He was the bishop of Hippo Regius in north Africa, and is viewed as one of the most influential Church Fathers in Western Christianity. Among his most important works are *The City of God*, *On Christian Doctrine* and *Confessions*.

Augustine's autobiographical work, *Confessions*, has been one of the most influential works in Christian spiritual writing. Many people have been inspired by its beauty and honesty.

Believing that the grace of Christ was indispensable to human freedom, he helped formulate the doctrine of original sin and made seminal contributions to the development of just war theory.

Augustine is recognized as a saint in the Catholic Church, the Eastern Christian Church, and the Anglican Communion and as a Doctor of the Church. His memorial is celebrated on 28 August, the day of his death. Augustine is the patron saint of theologians, printers, and brewers, as well as of a number of cities and dioceses. He is invoked for his intercession for those who seek the truth with a sincere heart.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION...

- **What inspires you about these two intertwined stories?**
- **What does the story of Sts Monica and Augustine say to you about the relationship of parents and children?**

Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M
 P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M
 E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N
 O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M
 P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S
 L H I I H E L R B I S P E K E
 E K F R S E Y I K A V U V R U
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 M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I
 T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M
 B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L
 X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T
 I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N
 J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T
 G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

CHRIST	EARTH	SON	PROPHETS	PEOPLE
BLESSED	KINGDOM	CHURCH	GATES	BAPTIST
LIVING	ROCK	FATHER	HADES	ELIJAH
JOHN	HEAVEN	PETER	KEYS	JEREMIAH