



Joyful Encounters...
Turning Believers into Disciples

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Baptism of Jesus



He will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and **fire**.

Luke 3:16

What is the quality that is most needed in priests in the United States today?

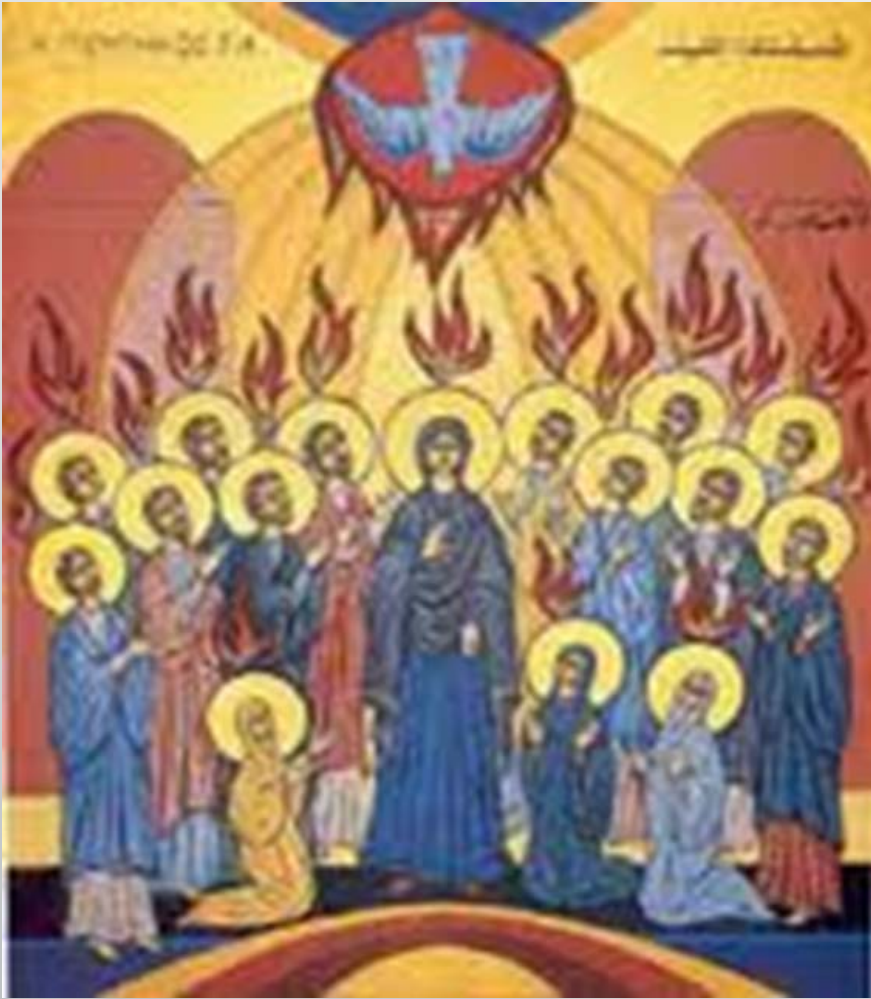
I think first of all he has to be in touch with his own baptism, like when the council reminded the bishops at the Second Vatican Council that ordination does not annihilate our baptism. Which I think is a very good way of putting that. We have to be disciples first of all and convinced of what we're doing. And a deep desire to want to accompany people-- not unlike the Holy Father. So I always tell-- when I was director of the seminary I always told students-- seminarians-- forget about priesthood, forget about ordination. Think about your baptism. What does that mean?... **Which is exactly what every Christian should be thinking about.**



Veni Sancte Spiritus!

- ***Come Holy Spirit!***





Veni Sancte Spiritus!

*Fill the hearts of your
faithful!*



Veni Sancte Spiritus!

*Kindle in us the fire of
your love!*



Veni Sancte Spiritus!

*Send forth your Spirit and
we shall be created!*



Veni Sancte Spiritus!

*And You shall renew the
face of the earth!*

In every activity of evangelization, the primacy always belongs to God, who has called us to cooperate with him and who leads us on by the power of the Holy Spirit.



The real newness is the newness which God himself mysteriously brings about and inspires, provokes, guides and accompanies in a thousand ways.

An Invitation...



- I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, **or at least an openness to letting him encounter them.** EG3#
- I never tire of repeating the words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

Lumen Fidei... Pope Francis



- The Light of Faith comes from an encounter with the living God and lights the entire journey for believers.



Were not our hearts burning within us as while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?

Luke 24:32

Are you ready and willing to share Christ, who has touched your heart, with others?

Joy of the Lenten Gospels



Scrutiny Gospels



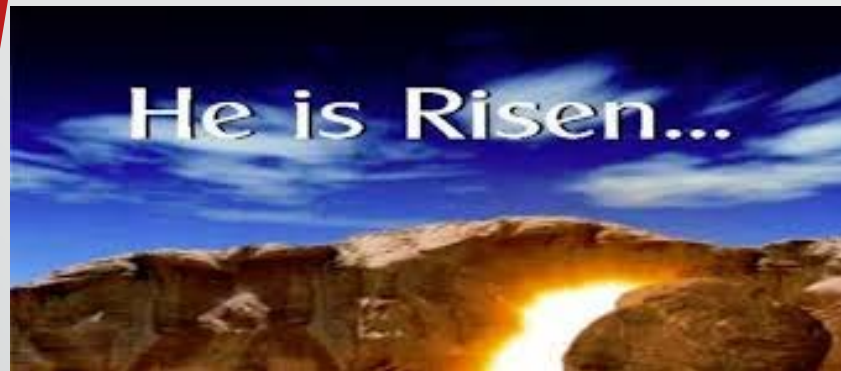


Joyful



Encounters

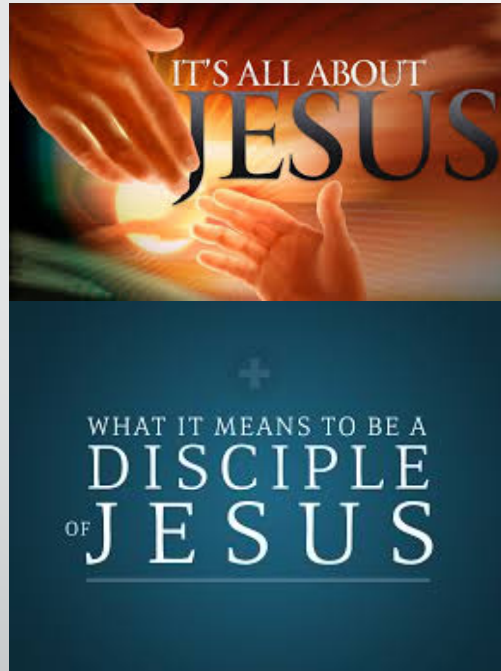




Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

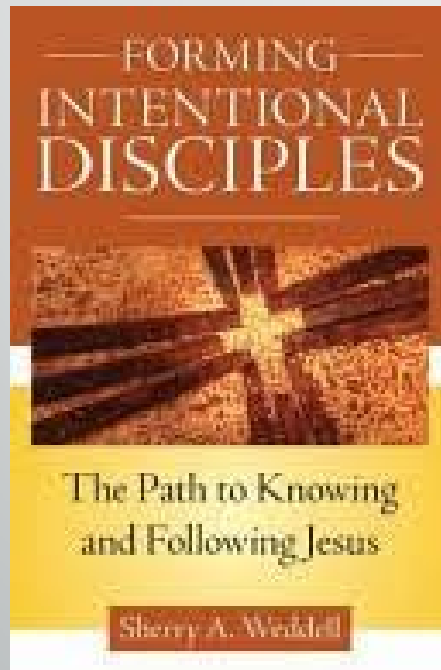


Believers Open To Discipleship



- Open to an encounter
- Witness to it
- Come and See

Forming Intentional Disciples



- We learned that there is a chasm the size of the Grand Canyon between the Church's sophisticated theology of the lay apostolate and the *lived* spiritual experience of the majority of our people. And this chasm has a name: ***discipleship***.
- The spiritual winds blow both ways in our postmodern world: *into* and *out* of the Church. Our spiritual climate provides us with real opportunities and very definite threats if we do not adjust our evangelizing, catechetical, and pastoral practice to the unique challenges of the times in which we live.

*They Went Forth:
Bringing the New Evangelization to Life...
A Paradigm Shift*

Believer → *Disciple*

Crossing the red line to Discipleship



- Why Peter, James and John?
- Do not tell anyone about what happened until the Son of Man rises from the dead.

Mt 17:9



Come and See!



Each called to do the same!



- “We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

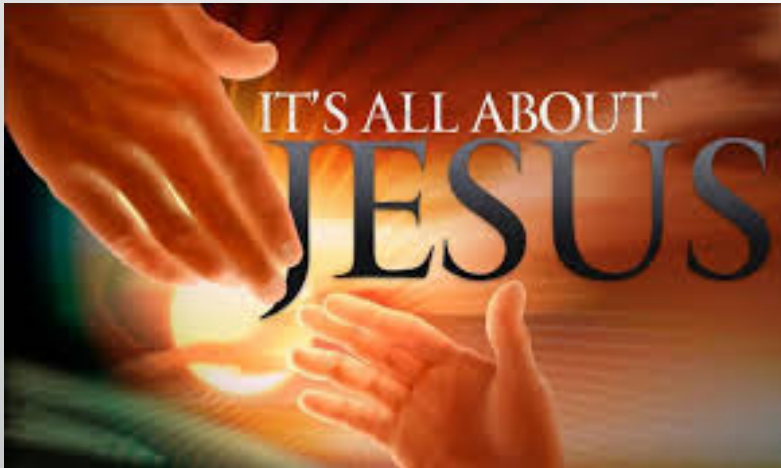
Jn 4:42



The Spirit at Work

- Spirit filled evangelizers means evangelizers fearlessly open t the working of the Holy Spirit. EG#1
- Each of us must cross the red line from being a follower/believer to being a disciple. This can only happen with an encounter with Jesus. (JEH)

Missionary Disciples



- All the baptized are called to be missionary disciples.
- The Church is herself a missionary disciple. (EG40)



Turn Challenges into Opportunities

- Challenges exist to be overcome! Let us be realists, but without losing our joy, our boldness and our hope-filled commitment. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigor! EG, 109

Encountering Jesus in Others



- We need to help others to realize that the only way is to learn how to encounter others with the right attitude, which is to accept and esteem them as companions along the way, without interior resistance.



Time for Reflection

- What was your very first encounter with Jesus in your life?