

Session 7 Review

Transformation in Christ, The Call to Proclaim

We began the session with Adoration in the Church. During that time of praise and thanksgiving we call upon the Spirit of the living God to fall afresh on us and on the person who will be doing the teaching or witness for the session. During the prayer some are moved to pray in tongues, some to give affirming prophesy, some to simply praise God. This is a very moving part of the evening.

Mike led us in song, “The Summons”, so appropriate for this last session. “Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?” We have been called, we gave our yes to the Lord and now we are being sent on a mission to bring others to the Lord.

Saint Mother Teresa has given families the sequence to holiness and peace.

The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit service is peace. We would all do well to follow her words of wisdom.

A short story called “The Parable of the Lighthouse”, from **Along the Water’s Edge** by Daniel Juniper reminds us not to forget our primary purpose as a Church. Like the members of the “Lighthouse Society” in the story, we can get caught up in the on-going business and ‘busy-ness’ of the Church—the programs, the finances and social activities etc. – and lose sight of the fact that we are called to bring the gospel to others.

The call to evangelization is a commission to every member of the Church. If our lives have been changed by the transforming love of Jesus, we should want everyone to experience that same love in their lives.

Evangelization is bringing people to salvation, into a relationship with God and the Church. Evangelization is a way of life as Christians. We evangelize by our whole lifestyle, the way we live, the values we hold, the words we speak, the love we show. St. Francis of Assisi practiced this philosophy, “Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.”

Evangelization requires holiness of life. We must be serving the needs of those we seek to evangelize. True evangelization involves proclaiming the person of Jesus and relies on the power of the Holy Spirit to bear fruit.

Some suggestions are;

See all that you do as an instrument for evangelization. Share your personal testimony. Know when to share and speak and when to remain silent and pray. Pray for zeal.

God, you brought us into the world and allowed us to become followers of your Son in whom we have clothed ourselves. He has called us to spread the Good News of the Gospel he preached and sent your Holy Spirit to accompany us on the mission. May this message always re-energize us as we seek out your grace to do so.

- ▶ “Jesus said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.”
(Mark 16:15)

Discussion Questions

- ▶ In what ways has the Lord used you to evangelize?
- ▶ How was your experience of prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
- ▶ Have you noticed any fruit of the Spirit or charisms?
- ▶ Has prayer, reading Scripture or the Mass come alive for you in a new way?
- ▶ What do you think holiness means in everyday life?
- ▶ How do you feel newly empowered to build up the body of Christ?
- ▶ What have you found most helpful in your own spiritual growth and maturity?
- ▶ **Scripture**
- ▶ Matthew 17:24 John 15:12-13 2 Corinthians 3:18
- ▶ Colossians 3:9-10 Galatians 5:20 Romans 12:2 Isaiah 55:8-9
- ▶ James 1:22 Hebrews 12:11