



# Sharing Our Story & Why It Is So Important

Julianne Stanz,  
Director of Parish Life and Evangelization

# The Story Begins



**Reader:** Through the centuries people have honored and respected the Scriptures in many ways; some have studied it, translated it into different languages, others have smuggled banned copies into forbidden areas; still others have set the Scriptures to music. But simply giving voice to the Scriptures does not make it the word of God in the broader sense- unless it is also *received*. When we become fully present and open, we *become* the Word of God; alive and active. And when the Holy Spirit moves through us and in us, touching hearts and minds; the word is alive in our hearts and fills the world. We are all proclaimers of the Word of God. Yes, that book is the Word of God, but so too are we!

*(Adapted from "Christ is Risen" by Theresa Cotter).*

**Reader:** From papyrus to parchment, scroll to volume, mainframe to laptop, spoken word to instant message, analogue to digital your word, O Christ, is alive and vibrant among us.

**All:** Speak, Teacher; your servant is listening. Instruct me in your lessons and lead me in your truth.

**Reader:** From desert to mountain, river to forest,  
city to village, ocean to continent, earth to  
sky, star to galaxy --  
your resurrection, O Christ, is alive and  
vibrant among us.


**All:** Speak, Teacher; your servant is awakening.  
Instruct me in your mysteries and lead me in  
your presence.

**Reader:** From time to space, death to life, then to now, there  
to here, ego to soul, blindness to sight, sin to grace –  
your wonder, O Christ is alive and vibrant among us.

**All:** Speak, Teacher; your servant is transforming.  
Instruct me in your silence  
And lead me in your dying. Amen

*(Fr. Richard Fragomeni, "Christ the Teacher" from "At The Name of Jesus")*





Human beings  
are at heart  
storytellers.



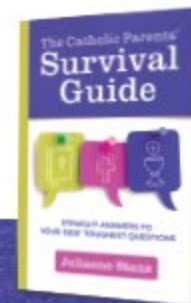
**Braving the Thin Places**  
*Celtic Wisdom to Create a Space for Grace*

# The Catholic Parents' Survival Guide

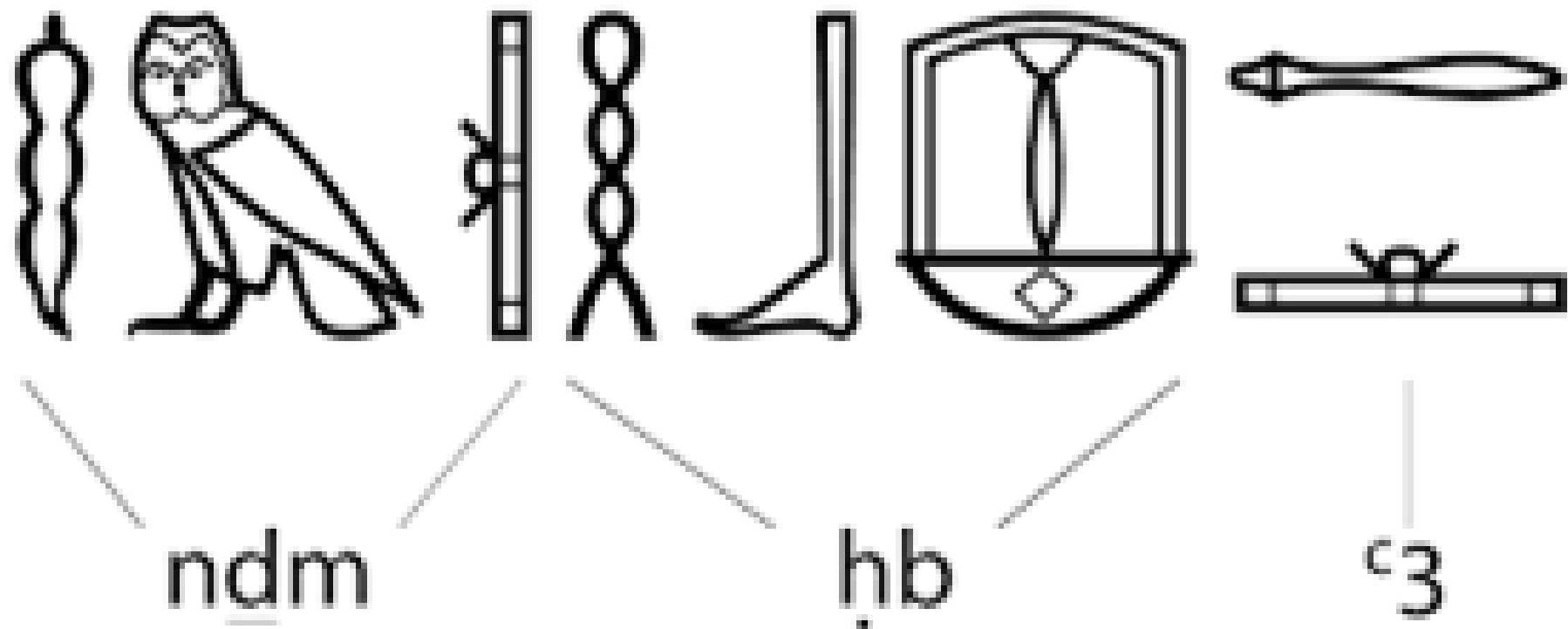


STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO  
YOUR KIDS' TOUGHEST QUESTIONS

**Julianne Stanz**







"A great festival is joyous/fun"













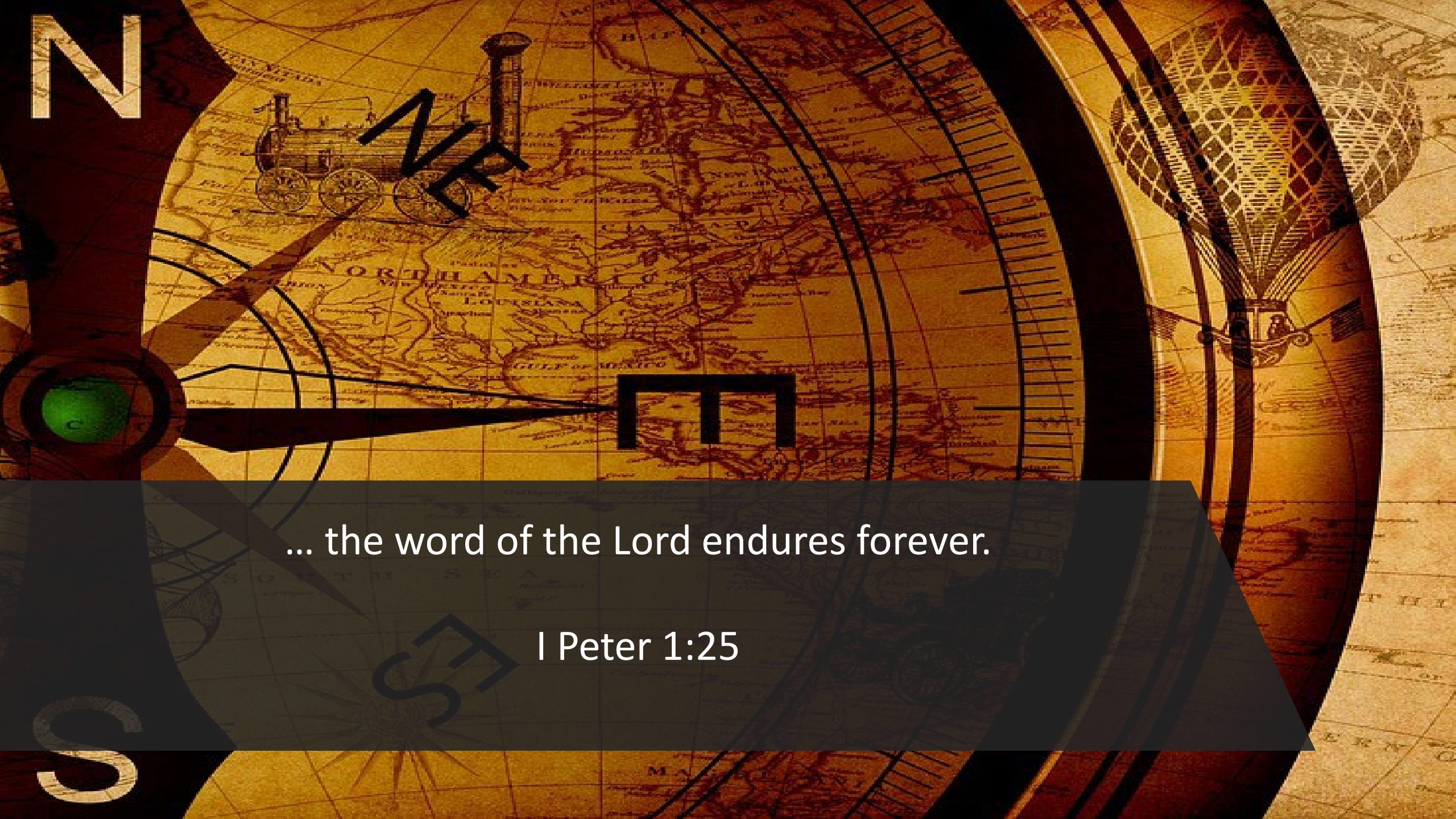


\* zw. 1394  
и. 1399

Johann  
Gutenberg

DDR  
10





... the word of the Lord endures forever.

I Peter 1:25





An Arrow Aimed at the Head Will Not Pierce the Heart

Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them [the crowds] in parables?"

**The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do *not* perceive, and hearing they do *not* listen, *nor* do they understand.'** (cf. Isa 6:9-10)

**With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You will indeed listen, but *never* understand, and you will indeed look, but *never* perceive.'**

**For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn--and I would heal them.'**

Adapted From Matthew 13:10-17:

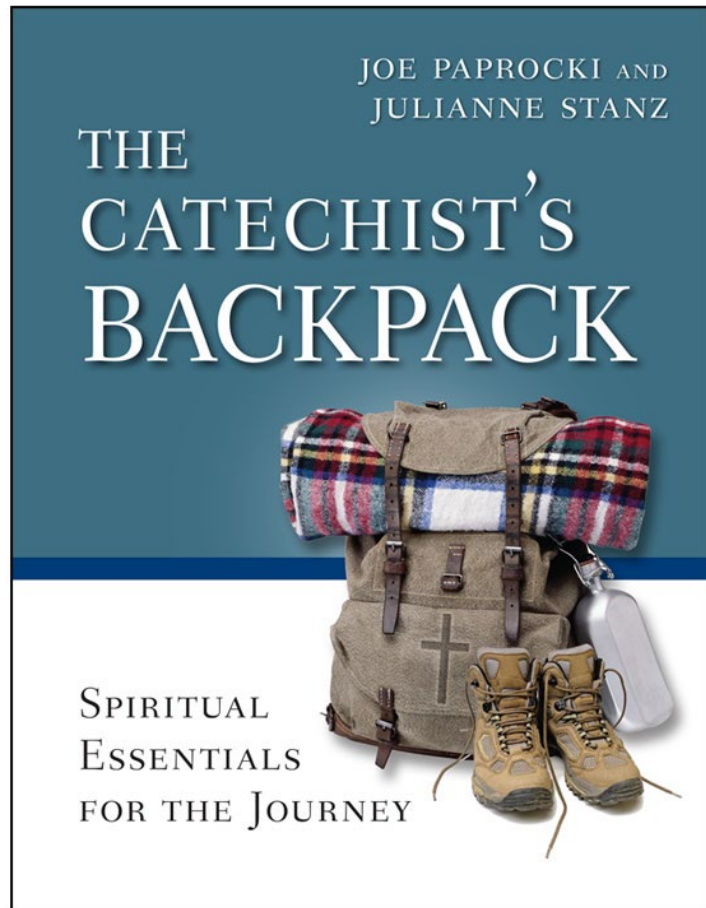


Image: Elias Baron  
The Literary Times

As you are and feel at this moment, select one word from each column that seems most appropriate.

I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.
Dear	God		striving	servant	needs	help
Heavenly	Father		frightened	son	begs for	advice
Gentle	Mother		confident	daughter	thanks you for	love
Kind	Son		fearful	child	asks for	forgiveness
Forgiving	Spirit		sinful	creature	requests	You
Loving	Creator		anxious	brother	appreciates	prosperity
Just	Giver of Life		sorrowful	sister	demands	courage
Mysterious	Sustainer		grateful	people	enjoys	confidence
Unseen	Jesus		confused	community	claims	patience
Merciful	Christ		joyful	family	pleads for	peace
Powerful	Savior		eager	friend	has	an answer
Faithful	Redeemer		hurting	companion	deserves	praise
All Wise	Friend		angry	disciple	searches for	faith
Patient	Protector		peaceful	messenger	hopes for	understanding
Unknown	Judge		depressed	prophet	fears	friendship
Trusting	Master		hopeful		loves	strength
Blessed	Brother		struggling		long for	generosity
Guiding	Guide		determined		shares	acceptance
All Knowing	Higher Power		lonely		gives	guidance
Divine	King		faithful		wants	celebration
Hiding	Sister		troubled		expects	life
Relentless	Ruler		happy			laughter
Ever Present	Victor		trusting			relief
	Lord		brave			nothing
	Presence		loving			everything
			serene			pain
			searching			tears
			unique			mercy
						another chance

# Stories: Fingerprints of the Heart



"Stories help us organize and understand information, but, even more importantly, they have the capacity to touch the heart.

Today, storytelling is finding new expression through digital and social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat.

Each one of us has a story of faith as unique as our fingerprints."

-Joe Paprocki and Julianne Stanz,  
*The Catechist's Backpack*



# Our Story Takes on Meaning in the Light of the Great Story

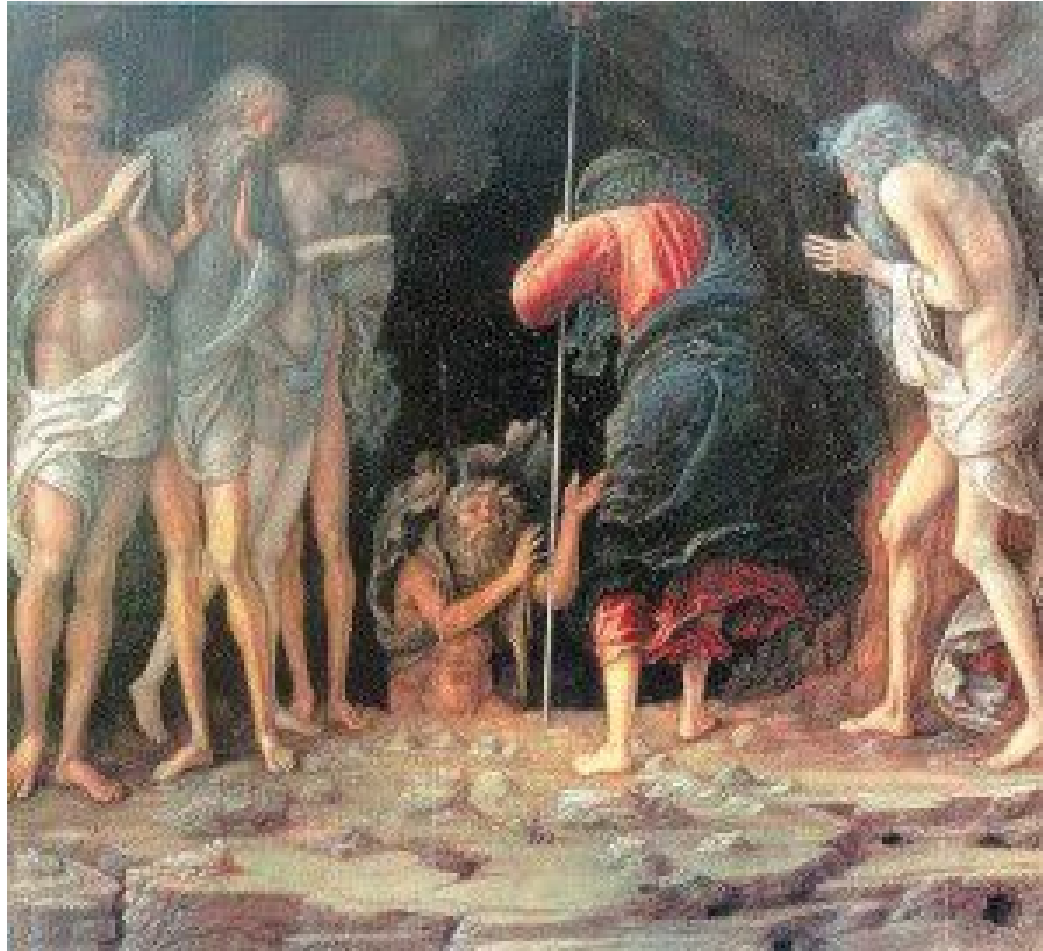


*“When **My Story** Encounters **God’s Story** and becomes **Our Story** we begin to see our lives within the grand story of Salvation History.”*

*- Tom McGrath*



# Nick's Story





On our lips...  
"the first proclamation  
must ring out over  
and over: "Jesus Christ  
loves you; he gave his  
life to save you; and  
now he is living at  
your side every day to  
enlighten, strengthen  
and free you."

(EG, 164)

# Be a Gospel Architect

“ The architecture of the kerygma depends on the audience, the maturity, and the degree of receptivity of the hearers. Spend time thinking about which movement of the kerygma the person(s) might be familiar or not familiar with and what their response to the story has been up to this point in their life.”

Developing Disciples of Christ, Julianne Stanz

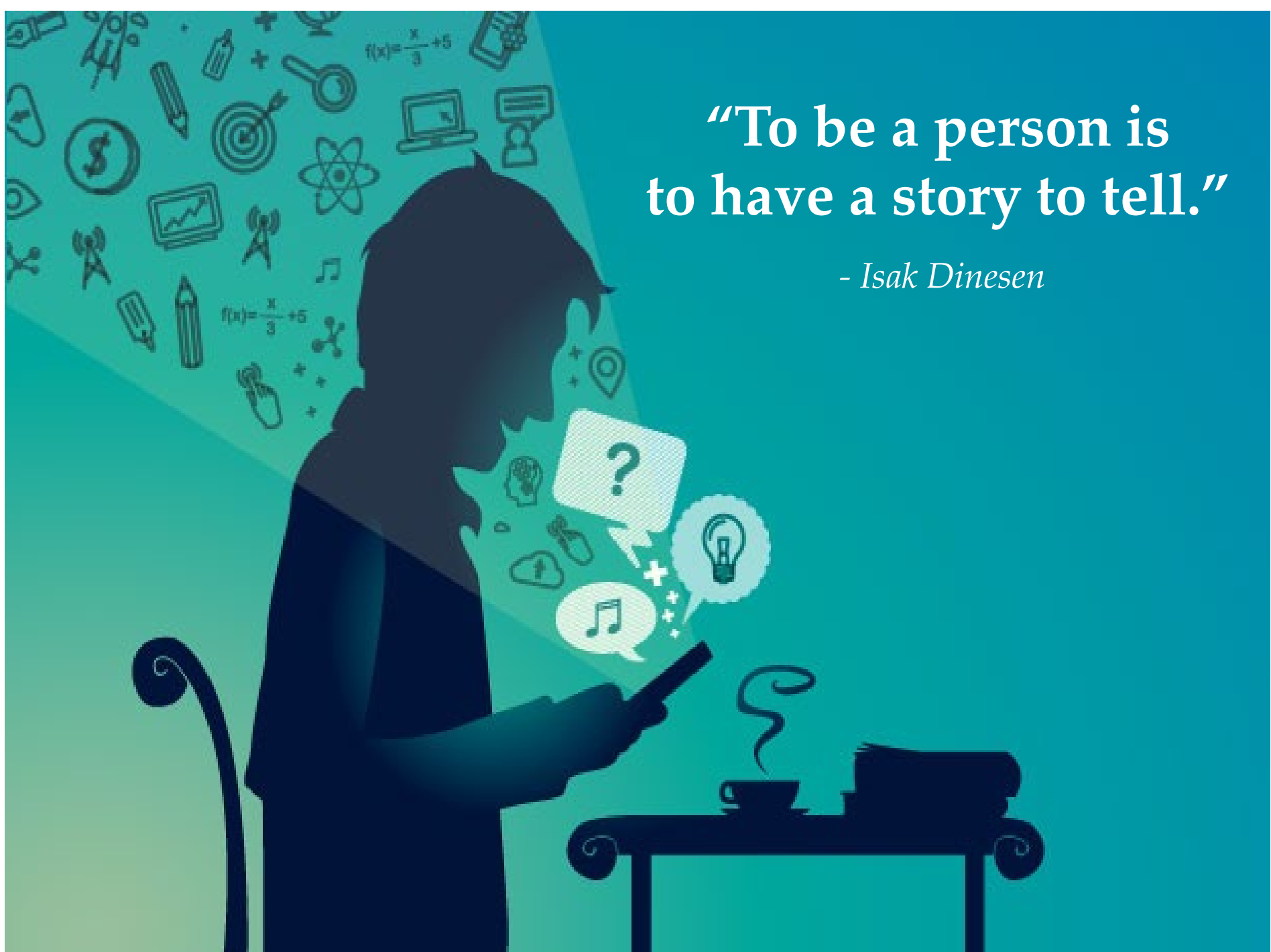
# For Reflection

- If you were to name the story of your life, what would you choose? Why?
- What would this chapter of your life be called?



**“To be a person is  
to have a story to tell.”**

*- Isak Dinesen*





# What's *Your* Story?

“Whether you were baptized as a child  
or joined the Church as an adult,  
*you have a story of faith.*”

Whether you sincerely live your faith in quiet  
or have a great public ministry,  
*you have a story of faith.*

Whether you have a grade-school knowledge of the catechism  
or have a theological degree,  
*you have a story of faith.”*

- Go and Make Disciples, USCCB





# Share Prayer

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1

You can call on God the following ways: God, Lord, Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, etc.

2

Thank God for the person you are praying with and ask for God's blessing upon them.

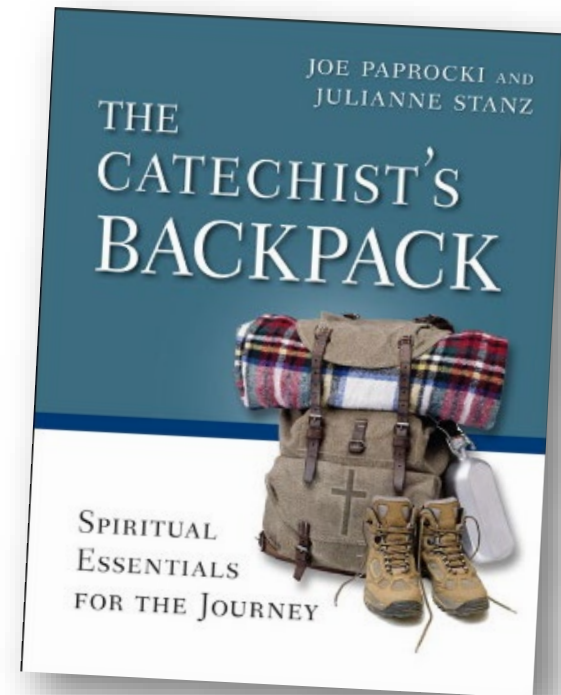
3

Then ask God for what the person needs.

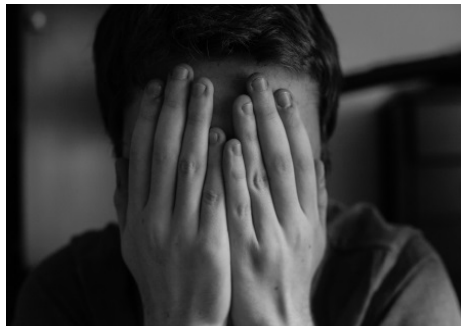
4

Finish the prayer with a doxology.

# Your Story of Faith



"Your life may be the only Gospel that some people will ever read."



I was.



God did.



I am.

# Unpacking Your Backpack

Sharing your story of faith





# Story Methodology



READ



REFLECT



PRAY



RESPOND

# Mary Presenting Jesus to the World





# Reflection Questions/Sharing Story of Faith

- Here are the questions:
  - 1) What have you heard today that involves new learning?
  - 2) What did it feel like to share your story of faith in this way?
  - 3) How might you incorporate this into your ministries?
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# Questions? Comments?

*Gurbh Mile Maith Agait (A Hundred Thousand Thank Yous)*

To my new friends in this Diocese and our friends at Loyola  
Press.



# Media Clips

A Social Nativity Christmas by Igniter Media

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sghwe4TYY18>

The Empathy Connection- Cleveland Clinic-

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=cleveland+clinic+empathy](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=cleveland+clinic+empathy)