

METANOIA

THANK YOU

Thank you for being a part of *Metanoia*.

Metanoia means conversion, but it is much more than that. It means to change, to repent, to turn, to think differently. Metanoia is an ongoing process. As Christians we are to live a life of metanoia.

In the very beginning of Mark's Gospel Jesus says, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel." (Mk. 1:15) The word "repent" in Greek has the root "metanoia." At the very beginning of the Scriptures, Jesus is inviting us to metanoia.

The purpose of this series is to assist the viewer in this ongoing metanoia. I believe Jesus invites everyone to a deeper more profound conversion - a metanoia - that moves us from *something* to *someone*, as metanoia ultimately turns us to Jesus.

Most people understand the word "conversion" to mean the act of converting from one religion to another, or a significant and powerful event, a *conversion experience*, that causes a person to grow deeper in their faith. But conversion is for everyone at all times.

As you walk through this series, I will continually be praying that you may come to understand how everyone is in constant need of metanoia and that this truth is a source of hope and encouragement. I pray that we all might continually experience this metanoia and seek the transformative grace of the Holy Spirit.



FR. DAVE PIVONKA, TOR

*The Ministry of the Wild Goose and
President of Franciscan University*

COME
HOLY
SPIRIT

HOW TO WATCH

Pray: Come, Lord Jesus. At this very moment, stop and ask for a greater openness to this grace of metanoia.

Jesus invites each of us to an ever deeper and more profound conversion. This conversion - this metanoia - is a constant need. This continual need for conversion should be for us a source of hope and encouragement that keeps us seeking the transformative grace of God's Holy Spirit. Metanoia will turn us from the things that keep us complacent and bring us into a radical relationship with Christ. Metanoia ultimately turns us to Jesus. This series will help deepen your understanding and experience of this process of ongoing conversion.

Metanoia is ten independent segments dealing with different aspects of metanoia. For the most part, each segment stands on its own, so you do not have to watch them in any particular order. However, the first three segments are foundational, so I encourage you to begin with these. After that, take a minute and ask the Lord to lead you towards what you should watch next. Observe how Christ moves in your heart and go with that!

While I certainly hope that you watch each segment, I would suggest that you not binge watch. It is important to take your time in working through this series. I can't encourage this enough; take your time and pray at the conclusion of each episode. Each segment has a study guide that provides a very brief synopsis, key texts, discussion questions, and - perhaps most importantly - prayer and reflection on the ideas. Please don't dismiss this section.

I believe the blessing of this series will be directly related to how you are able to quiet yourself and pray. We need to make ourselves available to Christ if we are going to be able to more fully experience the transformative grace of metanoia.

This book is intended to be used more as a prayer journal than a study guide. Use it to jot down thoughts, prayers and reflections as you make your way through *Metanoia*.



BY YOURSELF OR WITH OTHERS?

Both. The series has been created to be a blessing both to individuals who watch alone and to groups. It is not necessary that you be a part of a group to benefit from this series. In fact, “alone time” is an important part of the series.

However, I hope that you would also invite others to join you in journeying through *Metanoia*. Consider watching and discussing the contents of an episode with a few other people, such as friends, family, or people from your parish. You do not necessarily have to watch the episodes together at the same time and place; that may be nice but not very practical. Nevertheless, please consider inviting others to join you.

After watching each episode, share your thoughts and reflections with each other over a cup of coffee or a stout. You can even use social media groups, a phone call, email, texts, smoke signals, or whatever allows you to talk about what you heard God say through a particular episode. This time provides an opportunity for you to share the fruit from your prayer and reflection.

There is great power in our ability to articulate and share what we see God doing. This is where the discussion questions and prayer sections will come in handy.

I am so excited about what God is going to do in your life through *Metanoia*. You are always welcome to share testimonies of the wonderful things God is doing in your life on the series website: www.thewildgooseisloose.com.

Once again, thank you for being a part of what God is doing. Be assured of my continued thoughts and prayers. Come, Lord Jesus.

Fr. Dave



WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

EPISODE 1

SYNOPSIS

Who is Jesus? Jesus takes his disciples to Caesarea Philippi, a place riddled with images of pagan gods and idols. It is important that Jesus brings them to this place that elicits many images of gods. Jesus asks the disciples who people think he is. There are all kinds of various answers, but the significant question is whether or not **they** know who Jesus is. This is significant because Jesus will depart from Caesarea Philippi and begin his journey to Jerusalem, which will end with his death. It is imperative that the disciples know who he is before they begin their grueling journey.

Mark 8:27-30 *He [Jesus] asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Messiah."*

CCC 1 *At every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church.*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. What does today's world think of Jesus? Who would you say the world thinks Jesus is?
2. Jesus told them not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah because their image of the Messiah and who the Messiah actually is were very different. What kind of God do you think the "world" is looking for?
3. Who do you say Jesus is? How has your image of Christ changed over the years?



**"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."**

-POPE BENEDICT XVI-

Photo By Tadeusz Górný via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

Take some time when you are not distracted, when you have a few minutes, and ask God to reveal to you the difference between who you think he is and who he is. Ask God to place on your heart what it means that he is the Christ, that he is your Christ, that he is close to you and that he has rescued you.

WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

EPISODE 2

SYNOPSIS

Perhaps the most important question every person needs to be able to answer is this: *What do I need to do in order to inherit eternal life?* How do I get to Heaven? Many people oversimplify their answer to this question and believe it is enough to simply be a good person, to avoid breaking the commandments, and to go to church. Although all these things are extremely important in the journey towards heaven, not enough attention is paid to the importance of following Jesus. In fact, Jesus is rarely mentioned. However, Jesus is **THE** way to heaven and being in a relationship with him is key to inheriting the Kingdom of God.

MARK 10:17-22 *A man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ...Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.*

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. When did you make the decision that heaven is your ultimate goal? What brought you to that point of decision?
2. Heaven is our goal, but we need to be intentional about aiming for this. We don't just fall into heaven. How do you intentionally direct your life towards heaven?
3. Jesus looks at you with love and then asks for whatever keeps you away from him, whatever may keep you out of heaven. What does he ask of you? Are you able to give it to him?



**"THREE THINGS ARE
NECESSARY FOR THE
SALVATION OF MAN: TO
KNOW WHAT HE OUGHT
TO BELIEVE; TO KNOW
WHAT HE OUGHT TO
DESIRE; AND TO KNOW
WHAT HE OUGHT TO DO."**

- ST. THOMAS AQUINAS -
TWO PRECEPTS OF CHARITY, 1273

Photo by Benazzo Geronzi via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

Our decision to follow Jesus is a constant choice, one that we make time and time again. Take a few minutes to consider what God has done for you and how he has loved you, been patient, kind and merciful. Once again, give your heart to the Lord and choose to follow him.

DEATH & LIFE

EPISODE 3

SYNOPSIS

There is a paradox in the life of a Christian: In order to live, one must die. If one hopes to become great, one must first become little. Jesus says from the beginning that if people want to follow him, then they must deny themselves and pick up their cross. Self-denial, difficulties, crosses and suffering are a constitutive part of the Christian life. They are not optional. In a world of supreme extravagance, choosing less or going without is countercultural, but being a Christian is always supposed to be countercultural.

LUKE 9:23-25 *"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"*

CCC 2015 *The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle.*

MATTHEW 11:28-30 *Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. The paradox of the Christian life is that "in order to live, we must die." How have you experienced this death to self?
2. As a Christian, how have you experienced the call to be countercultural?
3. When was a time you experienced suffering that brought you closer to Christ?



**"WHEN CHRIST
CALLS A MAN, HE
BIDS HIM COME
AND DIE."**

-DIETRICH BONHOEFFER-

Photo by Bundesarchiv Bild, via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

Take a moment to think about some of the difficulties and crosses in your life. If you are able, ask for the abandonment to accept this cross. Ask Jesus to be with you and to strengthen you as you carry this cross for love of him.

SIN & MERCY

EPISODE 4

SYNOPSIS

It is important to take sin seriously because Jesus takes sin seriously. Sin wounds the heart of Christ, offends God, and wreaks havoc on human relationships. However, sin is not a stumbling block for God's love. In fact, perhaps it is the opposite. God has mercy and compassion towards sinners. In the Scriptures, it says that Jesus came for the sinner, the sick and the broken. Too often people believe that God could not possibly love or forgive them. But God is more powerful than sin. Jesus came to earth to break the power of sin and death and to set sinners free. Since Jesus came for sinners, it is important to identify personal sin and to realize that Jesus comes to rescue us from that sin.

LUKE 7:47-50 *"So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

MARK 1:15 *This is the time of fulfillment, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.*

CCC 1431 *Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace.*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. We live in a culture that has largely lost any sense of sin. How would you define sin to someone who does not believe?
2. An interesting thing happens as we get closer to Jesus: we become more aware of our sin. The more light there is in our lives, the more we are able to see the darkness. However, we are not discouraged because we have been forgiven much. Recall times in your life when you experienced being forgiven.
3. We have all sinned, but this is not what defines us. Rather, what gives us our identity is how we are created in God's image and likeness. What are other things that we are tempted to let define our worth?



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"WE MUST TRUST IN THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD'S MERCY. WE ARE ALL SINNERS, BUT HIS GRACE TRANSFORMS US AND MAKES US NEW."

-POPE BENEDICT XVI-

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

Grant us the grace to recognize our sin, not to judge or condemn ourselves, but so we might know your love and mercy. St. John says, "God is light and in him there is no darkness." Take a few minutes and pray that you would be overshadowed by God's healing, illuminating light.

JESUS PRAYS

EPISODE 5

SYNOPSIS

Throughout the Scriptures, Jesus takes time to pray. Jesus prayed before he healed, after he healed, before he spoke, after he spoke, before he ate, and before he suffered. Jesus sought intimacy with his Father, an intimacy that is achieved in prayer. If this intimacy was necessary for Jesus, how much more necessary is it for every person? It is necessary to imitate Jesus and to cultivate a relationship with God through prayer. Prayer brings clarity of mind, peace and release. Prayer is strengthening. Prayer is important to the Christian life because Jesus prayed and because he taught his followers to pray.

MARK 1:35 *Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.*

LUKE 6:12 *In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God.*

MATTHEW 14:23 *After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone.*

CCC 2745 *Prayer and Christian life are inseparable, for they concern the same love and the same renunciation, proceeding from love; the same filial and loving conformity with the Father's plan of love; the same transforming union in the Holy Spirit who conforms us more and more to Christ Jesus; the same love for all men, the love with which Jesus has loved us.*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. We learn the importance of prayer because Jesus himself models a life of prayer. Tell about a time that someone else taught you by example.
2. Praying brings peace. St. Seraphim of Sarov says, "Acquire a spirit of peace, and a thousand souls around you shall be saved." How does the peace brought about by prayer assist Jesus in his ministry? How has prayer strengthened your own ability to minister to others?
3. The more we talk to and spend time with someone, the better we get to know them. Prayer helps us to encounter God and get to know him better. How has prayer helped you get to know God better? Has continual prayer changed how you see God and how you talk to God?



"PRAYER IS NOT THE PREROGATIVE OF MONKS; IT IS A CHRISTIAN UNDERTAKING OF MEN AND WOMEN OF THE WORLD WHO KNOW THEMSELVES TO BE CHILDREN OF GOD."

-ST. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA-
FURROW, 451

Photo by Oficina de Información de la Prelatura del Opus Dei en España, via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

Take a moment to sit in silence before God the Father. Know that he is looking upon you with love. Reflect on that knowledge that the Father is present to you and is looking on you with love for as long as you want. Imagine the Father repeating the words he spoke of Jesus to you: "You are my beloved son/daughter; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22)

HUNGER & THIRST

EPISODE 6

SYNOPSIS

Every human person is hungry. The human heart experiences this hunger. Men and Women are created with a sense of incompleteness, with an eternal longing. This longing sometimes masks itself as desire or loneliness, but ultimately, all these pangs humanity experiences reveal a deep longing and hunger for God. Jesus fills emptiness and satisfies hunger. In the scriptures, he reveals himself as the bread from heaven. God humbles himself and becomes the bread of life that can fill and satisfy. This revelation of the Eucharist proves to be a hard teaching for many, and Jesus loses followers over it, but his disciples stay even though they struggle to understand. They do not turn to anyone else because they know that Jesus alone “has the words to eternal life.” Only Jesus fills the hunger of the human person.

JOHN 6:35 *Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”*

JOHN 6:27 *Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life.*

JOHN 4:13-14 *Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*

CCC 1324 *The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life.’ ‘The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely of Christ himself, our Pasch.’*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. We are all created with a hunger for God, but sometimes this longing masks itself as a desire for other things. We might feel that we desire certain experiences or worldly pleasures such as money, relationships or recognition. What things distract you from your own hunger for God?
2. The Eucharist was a hard teaching for Jesus' followers, and it is still a hard teaching for many people today. According to a 2019 Pew Research Center survey, “Just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that ‘during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.’” How have you encountered the grace to embrace this hard teaching?
3. When Jesus feeds the 5,000, he does not just give them “enough.” Instead, he makes sure they “have their fill.” He desires that they receive him in abundance. When is a time that you felt filled and abundantly blessed by God?



**“WHAT A WONDERFUL
MAJESTY! WHAT
STUPENDOUS
CONDESCENSION! O
SUBLIME HUMILITY!
THAT THE LORD OF
THE WHOLE UNIVERSE,
GOD AND THE SON OF
GOD, SHOULD HUMBLE
HIMSELF LIKE THIS
UNDER THE FORM OF A
LITTLE BREAD, FOR OUR
SALVATION.”**

-ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI-

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

When Jesus asked his disciples if they too would leave, they responded, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” Ask the Holy Spirit to make these words of the disciples the prayer of your own heart. Take these moments to turn to God with your own loneliness, fears, frustrations and feelings. Allow yourself to encounter God as an intimate friend to whom you can go.

JESUS CALLS & EMPOWERS

EPISODE 7

SYNOPSIS

Jesus took on flesh out of love for the world, but his love for everyone is personal and individual. Jesus loves each person and calls them each by name. He desires to be in relationship with every person. Jesus' love is always personal. He knows every person's name and continually chooses them, despite their sins and failings. Jesus' call empowers us. Like he did for Lazarus, Jesus calls each person out of their tomb— out of what binds them and into a fuller life. He calls them because he loves them.

JOHN 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.*

MARK 10:49-50 *Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.*

JOHN 4:13-14 *Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not; prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. Jesus' love for us is personal and individual. Talk about a time when you felt how personal God's love is for you.
2. Jesus continues to choose you even at your worst moment. How does this truth make you feel? Does it bring you peace or do you struggle to believe this? Have you experienced this personally? Explain.
3. Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb. What is the "tomb" that Jesus calls you out of?



**"GOD LOVES
EACH OF US
AS IF THERE
WERE ONLY
ONE OF US."**

-ST. AUGUSTINE-

Image by Philippe de Champaigne (Public domain), via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

God loves you with a personal love. Reflect on John 3:16, but substitute it with your own name, "For God so loved _____ that he gave his only Son, that _____ should not perish but have eternal life." Meditate on this for awhile and ask to feel God's personal love for you.

JESUS' POWER OVER THE EVIL ONE

EPISODE 8

SYNOPSIS

There is an evil one, and he desires to destroy us. The evil one is alive today. Although we do not need to be obsessed with the evil one, we need to be aware that he exists. The evil one is active in three areas: the world, the flesh, and the devil. We see images of the evil one in the very beginning of Scripture. However, Jesus confronts the evil one and has authority over him. Jesus has given us a share in his power over the evil one. Every time we resist temptation and respond to grace, we participate in Christ's saving victory over evil. This response to grace is conversion, which is God acting in us.

LUKE 4:31-35 *Jesus then went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee... In the synagogue there was a man with the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out in a loud voice, "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are— the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him any harm. They were all amazed.*

CCC 410 *After his fall, man was not abandoned by God. On the contrary, God calls him and in a mysterious way heralds the coming victory over evil and his restoration from his fall.*

CCC 421 *Christians believe that, "The world has been established and kept in being by the Creator's love; has fallen into slavery to sin but has been set free by Christ, crucified and risen to break the power of the evil one."*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. The evil one works by lying and manipulating us. How have you experienced this in your own life? What are some of the lies the devil speaks to you? How does he tempt you?
2. When we are tempted, God can intervene. Have you experienced this? Explain.
3. As we get closer to the Lord, we are likely to be tempted and to experience struggle. Have you experienced this? How did God speak into that experience?
4. Jesus has authority over the evil one and gives us a share in that authority. Do you call upon the name of Jesus? How have you experienced this authority in your life or in the lives of others?



**"GOOD CAN
EXIST WITHOUT
EVIL, WHEREAS
EVIL CANNOT
EXIST WITHOUT
GOOD."**

-ST. THOMAS AQUINAS-

Image by Carlo Crivelli [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

Take a moment to pray a prayer of gratitude thanking Jesus for his victory over evil and for the ways you have experienced this victory in your own life. When you are done, ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your hope and fortitude for the struggles you may face as you draw closer to God.

THIS TEACHING IS HARD

EPISODE 9

SYNOPSIS

In the scriptures, Jesus teaches and says some things that can be hard for us to accept. We can sometimes run the risk of making Jesus into our own image, emphasizing the things we like and ignoring the things that challenge us. But Jesus is not a caricature. He is a person. It is important that we be obedient and humble when we come face to face with some of these "hard teachings." Ultimately, we can be confident in knowing that God loves us, that Jesus came to save us, and that we will be given the grace necessary to embrace these hard but beautiful truths.

LUKE 12:49-51 *"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!... Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."*

MATTHEW 15:12-14 *Then his disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He said in reply, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides [of the blind]. If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit."*

MATTHEW 7: 13-14 *Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. We tend to focus on the parts of Jesus that make us feel good. What are some of your favorite things that Jesus said? What do you like about those sayings or teachings?
2. What hard teachings do you struggle with? Have you tried asking God to give you the grace to accept these teachings?
3. Jesus begins his ministry with a celebration. How have you experienced Jesus sharing in life's celebrations with you?



**"CHRISTIANITY
HAS NOT BEEN
TRIED AND FOUND
WANTING; IT HAS
BEEN FOUND
DIFFICULT AND
LEFT UNTRIED."**

-G.K. CHESTERTON-

Photo from Crisis Magazine, via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

If there are any hard teachings that are causing you confusion or anxiety, ask Jesus to come and move in your heart. Ask him for conversion and conviction, but above all, ask that you can know his deep love for you. Trust that he will always provide the necessary grace for you.

DO YOU LOVE ME?

EPISODE 10

SYNOPSIS

God never gives up on us and always seeks us out in order to love us. God does not force himself on us but tenderly and patiently waits for us to return to him. The human heart wants to be loved and to love, and this loving desire is ultimately only satisfied in God. This love story is the greatest of all love stories. We reciprocate this love by loving others. Jesus came in love to save us, and we respond by sharing the news of this great love with the world. We tell others who we know Jesus to be. We tell how we have been loved and how he has done great things for us. When we come to know the love of Jesus, we are moved to share it with others.

JOHN 21:15 *Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."*

EVANGELII NUNTIANDI, 24 *The person who has been evangelized goes on to evangelize others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelization: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn.*

CCC 429 *From this loving knowledge of Christ springs the desire to proclaim him, to 'evangelize,' and to lead others to the 'yes' of faith in Jesus Christ.*

KEY TEXTS

DISCUSSION

1. The human heart wants to be loved and to love, and this loving desire is ultimately only satisfied in God. How have you experienced this in your own life? When have you felt this desire to love and to be loved?
2. God does not force himself on us but tenderly and patiently waits for us to return to him. How do you feel about this concept? How does it impact your image of God?
3. When Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him, he is asking if there is anything Peter loves more than Jesus, and if there is anything keeping Peter from loving him fully. What do you love more than God? Are there people, hopes or ideals that keep you from loving him fully?
4. When we come to know the love of Jesus, we are moved to share it with others. However, this Christian call to evangelize can be daunting. Fear, lack of knowledge, or other things can prevent us from having the courage to share the Gospel message. What keeps you from sharing the Gospel?



**"THE GOSPEL LIVES
IN CONVERSATION
WITH THE CULTURE,
AND IF THE CHURCH
HOLDS BACK FROM
THE CULTURE, THE
GOSPEL ITSELF
FALLS SILENT."**

- ST. JOHN PAUL II -

Photo from Jose Cruz Alvarez via Wikimedia Commons

REFLECTION

Come, Holy Spirit.

Take a moment to rest in the love of God. Know that at every moment of every day, God is beholding you with the greatest love. You are not alone. When you feel ready, ask God to remove the obstacles that stand between you and a more free and total love of him.