

Why Witness?



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Evangelization in the Modern World



“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

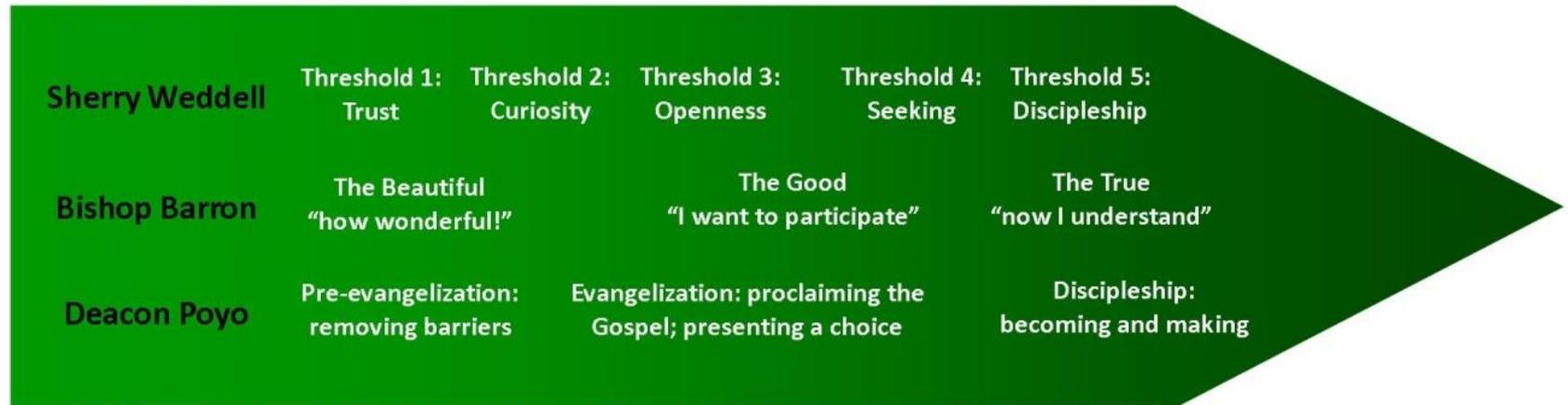
– Blessed Pope Paul VI,
Evangelicium Nuntiandi (1975)

The Path(s) to Discipleship



PASSIVE

ACTIVE



First Threshold: Trust

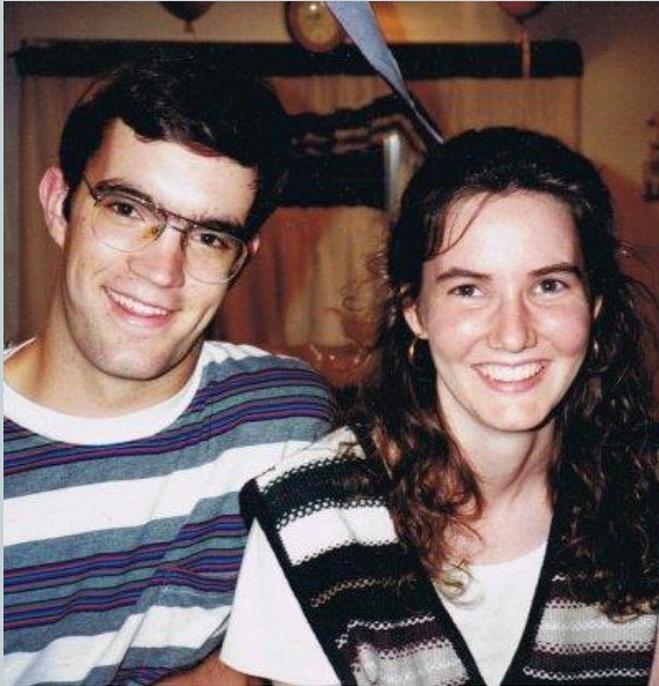


Initial trust: A person is able to trust or has a positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, a Christian believer, or something identifiably Christian. Trust is not the same as active personal faith. Without some kind of bridge of trust in place, people will not move closer to God.



*My maternal grandparents,
Frank and Stella Galubenski*

Second Threshold: Curiosity



*My bride and I,
when we were dating*

Spiritual curiosity: A person finds himself intrigued by or desiring to know more about Jesus, his life, his teachings, or some other aspect of the Christian faith. This curiosity can range from mere awareness of a new possibility to something quite intense.

Nevertheless, a person at the threshold of curiosity is not yet open to personal change. Curiosity is still essentially passive, but it is more than mere trust.

Third Threshold: Openness



Spiritual openness: A person acknowledges to himself or herself and to God that he or she is open to the possibility of personal and spiritual change. This is one of the most difficult transitions for a postmodern nonbeliever. Openness is not a commitment to change. People who are open are simply admitting they are open to the possibility of change.



Our wedding day

Fourth Threshold: Seeking



Fr. Bill Zink

Spiritual seeking: The person moves from being essentially passive to actively seeking to know the God who is calling him or her. It is, if you will, “dating with a purpose,” but not yet marriage. Seekers are asking, “Are you the one to whom I will give myself?” At this stage, the seeker is engaged in an urgent spiritual quest, seeking to know whether he or she can commit to Christ in his Church.

Fifth Threshold: Intentional Discipleship



Intentional discipleship: This is the decision to “drop one’s nets,” to make a conscious commitment to follow Jesus in the midst of his Church as an obedient disciple and to reorder one’s life accordingly.



My first VBS

What's Your *Why*?

