



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER BLAKE



While I am on retreat this week I would like to take time to write you a little of what we have been about these last four years. After reading Four Signs of A Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly, we focused on Prayer for one year – conversations, talking to and listening to Jesus - an effort which may run contrary to the normal demands of our day and of our time.

The second year we focused on Study – of Jesus, the Faith and his Church. Then we followed with a year of Generosity – a conscience act of sharing our time and our talents, with individuals and the Church. Fourthly, we began to practice Evangelization – the fruit of experiencing Jesus in prayer, coming to know him in study and then, like him, to generously share with others the fruit of those experiences – the Good News, the Gospel.

As we reflect on this, I remember the story of the rich young man who ran up to Jesus as he was passing by, knelt down and asked, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life.” Jesus reminded him of the commandments, which he confessed he had kept from his youth. Therefore, Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said, “You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me.”

We see the possibility of all four signs here: The young man prays, running up, kneeling down to converse with Jesus. His study is asking Jesus, “What must I do to inherit eternal life.” Then Jesus invites him to be generous with his gifts, “Go, sell what you have and give to the poor.” And the further with generosity of self, “Come, follow me.” The rich, young man could not, or chose not to be generous or to follow Jesus. Jesus was inviting him to come be his disciple – to learn from him and then his apostle – to evangelize – to share the Good News to others. The rich, young man is an example and an invitation to each of us – to pray, speak and listen to Jesus, study and ask Jesus, “What do you wish me to do?” Then to give of ourselves, our time and our talent, all of which are gifts from God, back to him. God will never be outdone in generosity – the more we give him the more in turn we will receive from him. Our own experience or that which we witness among others or from the gospel will be our words of evangelization. Alternatively, maybe a few words of encouragement and simply doing what Jesus did, in serving others.

A couple of months ago two people shared with the parish, through the bulletin, what the Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreat has done for them. Those were examples of evangelization, which I would like to offer you. Most of us have experienced the work or touch of God in one way or another in our lives. When we share those experiences, we continue to grow and experience the gospel in today’s lives. I would like to be able to share some of these experiences, even in a small way, to others. Please send any thing you might share, to me. Please share your name with me, even if you would like to remain anonymous.

God’s blessings, - Fr. Jerry Blake