

Forming Missionary Disciples

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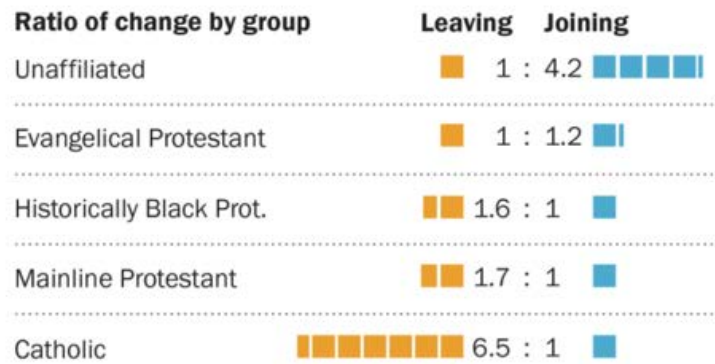
“When asked at what age they no longer identified themselves as Catholic, 74 percent of the sample said between the ages of 10 and 20, with the median age being 13 years old.” *



* McCarty and Vitek, *Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics* (St. Mary's Press and CARA. 2018)

Religious Switching: “Nones” Make Big Gains, Catholics Experience Big Losses

There are more than six former Catholics for every convert to Catholicism. By contrast, there are more than four people who join the ranks of the unaffiliated for every one person who leaves the unaffiliated and now identifies with a religion.



Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Religious Education Classes, Youth Groups and Catholic High School

	Now unaffiliated	Now Protestant	Still Catholic
	%	%	%
Religious education classes as child	68	68	71
Religious youth groups as teen*	32	29	32
Attended Catholic high school	20	16	25
N	401	343	287

*Includes only those respondents who participated in Catholic youth groups.

See Q.8, Q.11, Q.11a and Q.10b in survey topline for exact question wording.

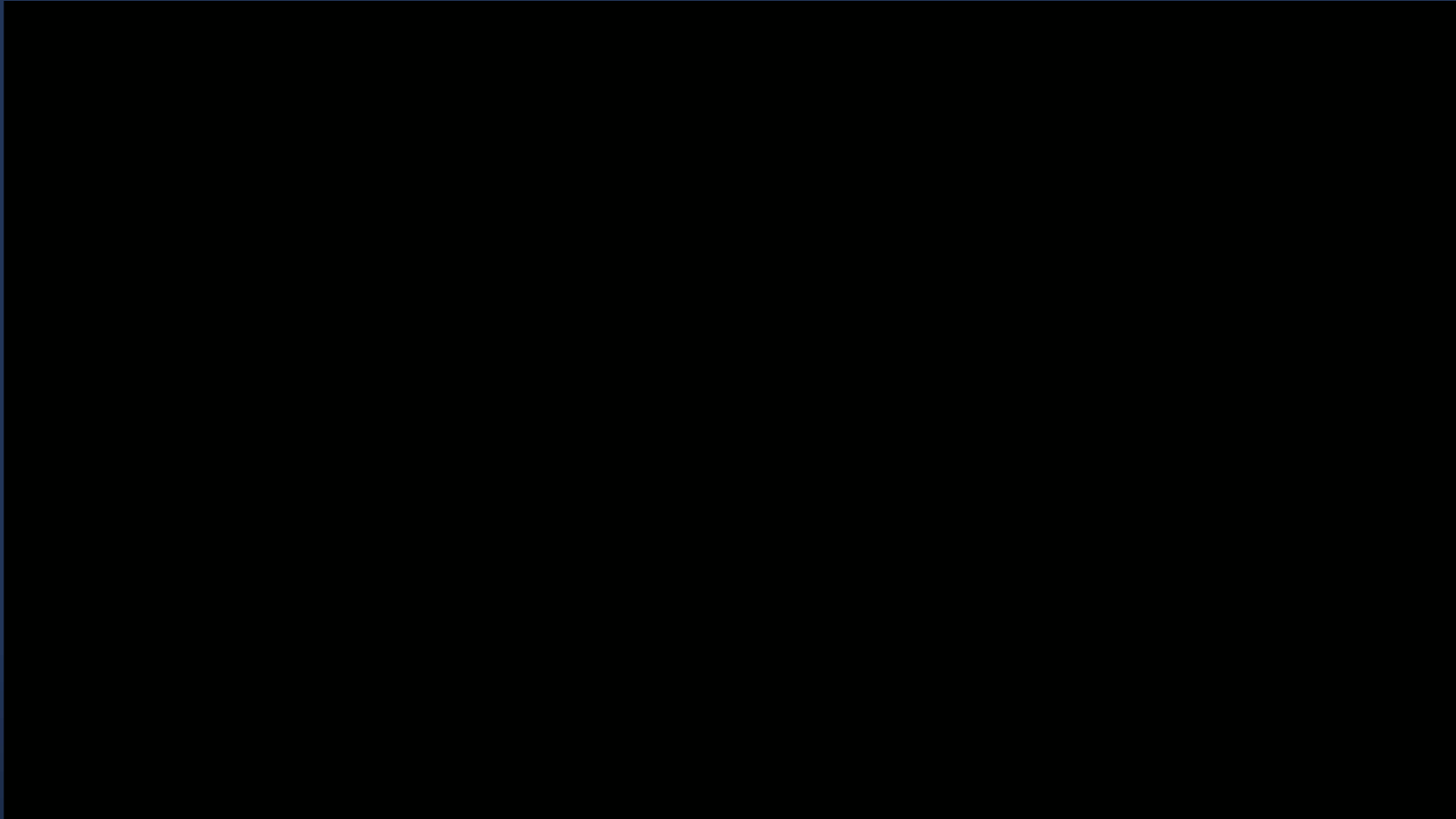
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“Unless **all** our priest, deacons, religious and lay leaders are grappling together with how to call every baptized person into intentional discipleship and fruit-bearing apostleship, we are head toward a demographic collapse in the next ten years that will make the post-Vatican II era look idyllic.

If, on the other hand, we seriously commit together to do what Jesus commanded, we could see something absolutely extraordinary in our generation. There is no reason why we could not be, in our generation, like the early seventeenth century generation of saints in France, who were the catalyst of a religious revival that changed the course of their country and the global Church. But it won't happen unless we say 'yes' to the **long obedience** of making disciples together.”

Sherry Weddell, *Fruitful Discipleship*

Emphasis added



ENCOUNTER

Come and see
(Jn 1:39)

COMMUNITY

Remain in me
(Jn 15:4-6)

ACCOMPANY

Follow me
(Mt 9:9)

SEND

Go make disciples
(Mt 28:19)

“There are no *ordinary* people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors....

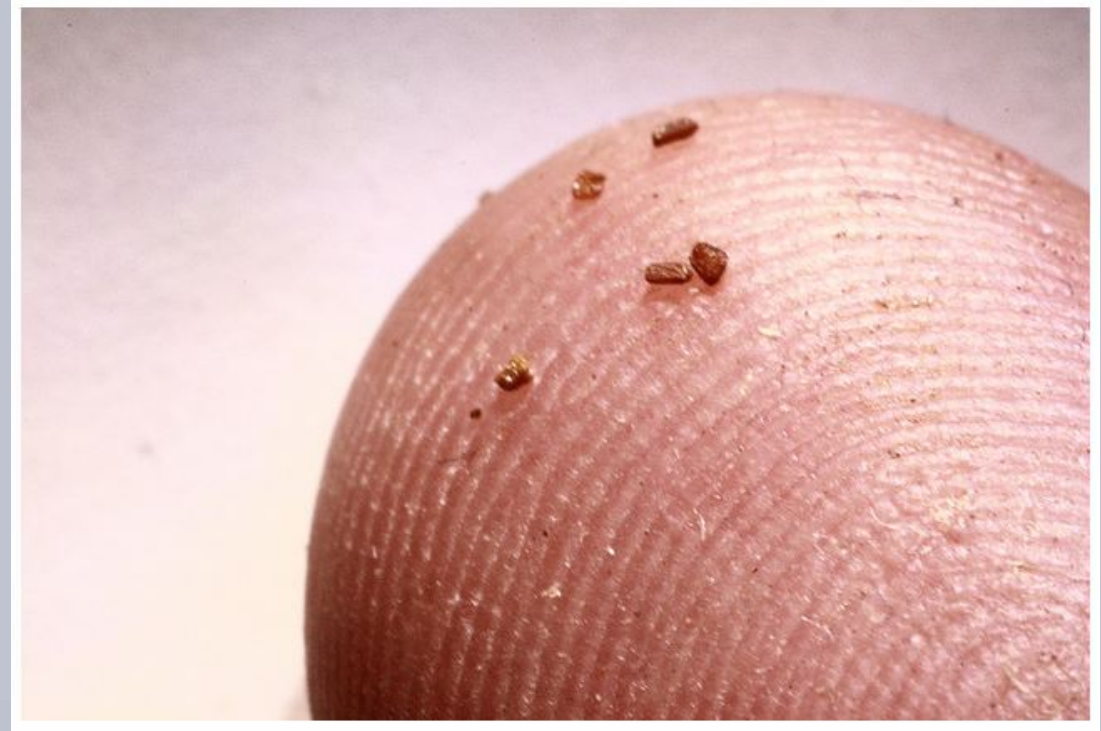
**Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself,
your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses.”**

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

Emphasis added

Think Mustard Seed To Movement

(Matthew 13:31-32)



- The bishops outlined 4 marks of missionary discipleship: ENCOUNTER, ACCOMPANY, COMMUNITY, SEND.
How does your parish/ministry serve people in each of these?
What is one area you see has a need for growth?
- Thinking “mustard seed to movement,” where is *one small place* in your life and ministry that you can start to focus on missionary discipleship?
What is one practical step you can take?
- Annie spoke about the “4 o’clock moment” in John’s gospel.
Share your own 4 o’clock moment when you had a decisive encounter with Jesus.