

### III. A Life of Discipleship

#### A. How do I want to live my life?

1. How do you want your story to end?
2. How do you want your story remembered?
3. How we answer these questions depends on how we envision our lives, what we are trying to accomplish, and especially what kind of person each of us is trying to become right now.

#### B. Who Should I be?

1. What kind of person should I be trying to become?
2. Answering these questions gives us a sense of direction, vision, and purpose.
3. Every human life tells a story. Some stories are good and some are bad.
4. The greatest challenge of morality is to find the story truly worthy of the gift of our lives.
  - a. Make your story your own.
  - b. Our lives are a gift from God and should never be wasted.
  - c. Our stories should challenge us to a life of goodness and holiness.
5. If we want to live the Christian moral life, the story of Jesus is the one we must make our own.

#### C. The story of Jesus

1. The Creed, The Rosary, ...
2. Jesus is saying to us, "Pay attention! Listen carefully! I have something fantastic and wonderful to tell you. You can share in the very life of God if only you turn your hearts to me, learn from me, and follow me."
3. Gospel mean – "Good News"
  - a. "believe in the Gospel" because it shows us the path of life
  - b. We all come from God and must find our way back to God.
  - c. Jesus will show us the way. Promise to follow him, imitate, him, and make his life your own and the Kingdom will be yours.

#### D. Come Follow Me

##### 1. Discipleship

- a. to learn and live the story of Jesus
- b. begins when we are baptized and continues until we reach the kingdom of God.

##### 2. Disciple

- a. a student committed to a special sort of teacher, one who promises to teach important lessons about life.
- b. learns by watching, observing,

listening, and follow the examples given.

Will people recognize Christ in me because I am just or kind or patient or forgiving? Decide how you will deliberately try to be Christ to others today.

#### E. In Our Hands

1. Jesus Said, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19 – 20
2. Mission
  - a. A special assignment a person is given to accomplish.
  - b. The mission of every baptized Catholic is to live the life of Christ in the world and to witness it to every person.
  - c. If the story of Jesus is not to die with us, we have to proclaim it every day by the way we live our lives.
3. Saint John Chrysostom said, “Let us, before all words, astound them by our way of life”
  - a. Acts of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness “astound” people
  - b. Have you ever experienced this as a giver or receiver?

#### F. Making a Difference

1. We should never underestimate the power of everyday goodness and kindness. These acts bring God’s life into the world.
2. What was Jesus like?
  - a. Jesus was faithful to God.
  - b. Hopeful and loving
  - c. Compassionate, merciful, kind, just, truthful, and forgiving.
  - d. He saw each person as special, even those others avoided.
3. Doing these acts is what it means to be a disciple.

#### G. Keeping the story alive

1. God calls us to do more than just “comfortable love”.
  - a. Do you love only those that love you?
  - b. Do you love only those who are like you are?
  - c. Can you love those that are different?
  - d. If we are not careful “comfortable love” can lead to narrow-mindedness, intolerance and discrimination.

#### H. Who is my neighbor?

1. We should love whomever God loves. God loves all people.
2. Just as I love you, so you must love too.