



with the **MISSION TEAM**

BY REV. MATTHEW WERTIN, *Vicar for the New Evangelization*

Q. *What is something I could do this Lent that will make a real difference in terms of my personal discipleship and evangelization efforts, especially since much of it is so new to me and I've never received any kind of training for how to go about it?*

The quickest and easiest way for spreading a culture of discipleship (learning and committing to follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives) and evangelization (helping others become disciples) comes from The Amazing Parish movement and consists of three specific conversations that we can have with other people.

**“
To be successful, we should remember that this is more of an art rather than a science.”**

Basically, anyone of us can begin having any one of these three types of conversations, or all of them, with anyone else at any time, then “rinse and repeat.” It is not a one off, but creating a new habit of growing and sharing in a direct, personal, relationship-based way that builds trust and has a mutually meaningful impact, where each party feels cared for, listened to and supported on our journey, wherever we find ourselves along the way.

To be successful, we should remember that this is more of an art rather than a science, we

will gradually improve and grow in comfort levels as we put it into practice and really the only place to start is with those individuals who are in our circle of influence: immediate family, close friends or even neighbors/co-workers with whom we have built up enough trust to be open and a bit vulnerable with one another.

- **CONVERSATION #1** answers the basic question, “What is going on in our lives right now that we should be praying for each other?” If you wish to go a little deeper, you could dive in with, “How are we growing in prayer by listening to and loving God in times of quiet, as well as noticing his presence and action in our daily lives so we can better cooperate with his grace?”
- **CONVERSATION #2** treats the question, “What is our lived relationship with God to this point in our lives?” (I.e., Our journey of faith and walk with the Lord.) If we already know or once we have shared more of our backstory with each other, we can simply focus on how do we see God at work in our lives right now, plus what do we suppose are the next steps we are called to take, along with our hopes and our dreams.
- **CONVERSATION #3** looks into, “What is our role in advancing the mission of Jesus to ‘go and make disciples?’” This includes how we are living out our vocation (single, married, priest or consecrated), how we are sanctifying

the ordinary circumstances of our lives, our level of engagement at the parish or with regards to outreach/works of mercy. With time, we can also help each other notice what are our spiritual gifts and how we are being called to use them to build up the body of Christ in preparation for heaven.

If nothing else, we do simple check-ins by asking, “How can we be praying for each other today?” or “How is God loving you recently?” or “What do you think God’s love is asking of you in response, and how can I support you in going for it?”

Here is a real-life scenario that could work wonders. Think over and pray about someone in your life who at least seems open to these kinds of conversations. If they do not already have a copy of this magazine, lend them yours, ask them to read Dr. Seth Wright’s article “The Love that Never Dies” on pages 5, after which you will treat them to coffee or something so you can talk about it. Each of you would simply share what it means to you, what caught your attention, why and some ideas for how it can be applied to your current circumstances in practical ways.

If we start and then continue to have these simple but effective conversations with one another on a regular basis, it will become part of the fabric of our very being, as well as usher in a whole new and improved culture of experiencing The Difference That Jesus Makes! Come Holy Spirit! †