The Catholic Watchmen: Apologetics: Sharing the Truth-June 21, 2018

* Countercultural for Men to be actively pursuing God
* Society thinks men need to be strong and if they should they need God, they appear weak, as they think God is a crutch
* As men, we need God and he calls us to share his goodness and truth with others in many ways
* We often think we have to apologize for being Catholic as it has negative vibe and people think of the Church as judgmental
* We don’t need to apologize but rather share its beauty-aka apologetics
* The Catholic faith is simple, but seems so complex with its 2000 year history, and thousands of documents and books about it
* As a result, we often do not feel qualified to share it
* Yet, we need to, it is meant to be shared and the world is hungry for the truth, opposite of relativism
* The Church provides us resources to share the faith
  + Formed.org –great video and audio resources to learn the faith and can share it with others, our parish has a subscription and the code is JBB6WB
  + The Catechism of the Catholic Church- summarizes what the Catholic Church teaches
    - Our diocese offers the Catechetical Institute to learn it more in depth over 2 years
  + “Ignatius Press Study Bible”-overs great footnotes and connects scriptures to Church teaching
  + Our parish has a library with many great books and DVD’s that we can use to learn the faith
  + Relevant Radio 1330 AM, Relevant Radio App
* Tips for sharing the faith

1. Listen and observe- see if there is an openness to receiving the Truth
2. Repeat back to them what they say, to show you understand where they are coming from
3. Share the Truth about the matter and the why if possible, if you can’t explain its okay to admit that and show humility. Look up the answer and get back to them.
4. Avoid unnecessary judgments especially about the person, remember we hate sin but love the sinner
5. Remind them that love is hard, we are fallen and have disordered passions
6. Be loving and joyful- follow the example of St. John the Baptist who preached with joy
7. Try to finish the conversation so that there can be another conversation

Questions for discussions:

1. How has the last month been? What have been the challenges and what have been the blessings?
2. When have you had the opportunity to share the faith with others?
3. What is one take away from tonight that you can use to share our faith with others more effectively?

10 Tips for sharing the faith from Lifeteen.com

1. **Say you go to Church.** Seriously. This one should be easy.
2. **Tell people about the retreat/ religious related trip you went on.** If people ask you where you've been there's no reason you shouldn't tell them. Show them your pics from World Youth Day.
3. **Share religious related movies or music.** Whenever you see a great movie or hear an awesome new song, don't you tell your friends? So why hesitate if it's Christian? Tell them you think Soul Surfer was amazing or that you've got TobyMac's latest single in your head.
4. **Post religious quotes on Facebook/Twitter/etc.** About 27% of posts on social media sites are inspirational in nature.\* Make yours a quote from a saint. Try some Mother Teresa: *'Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.'*
5. **Read a Catholic book in a public place.** (Without putting a fake book cover on it.)
6. **Change your ringtone to a Christian song.** I bet some Gregorian chant would turn some heads. . . Or maybe Britt Nicole's 'Set the World on Fire.'
7. **Say grace before you eat in public.** Yes, this includes the food court at the mall.
8. **Sport some Catholic swag.** T-shirt, key chain, locker poster, bumper sticker; you get the drift.
9. **Invite people to events.**Youth meetings, Christmas plays, retreats. I find people are really receptive to community service opportunities.
10. **Say you'll pray for people.** It also lets them know that you care and are thinking of them.