



Essential Evangelization

Through the Eyes of Jesus?

Have you ever met someone new and immediately “written them off” as a friend or within hope of evangelizing because of their race, color of their skin or cultural traditions? The truth is we are all children of God and within Jesus’ potential saving grace because “He came to save the world.” In today’s Gospel, we hear the scribes and Pharisees questioning Jesus because he was hanging with the wrong crowd. They were offended that they did not follow their Jewish washing observances and traditions. Jesus responded with a prophetic quote from Isaiah, “This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

There is a beautiful Golden Globe nominated movie out on DVD, and filmed in Detroit, that depicts the redemption of one very prejudice life, retired auto worker, Walt Kowalski as played by Clint Eastwood. Woven throughout the film “Gran Torino” are good and solid Catholic overtones but with unfortunately some strong language. Walt however comes to know and love his Asian neighbors in a big way in a very serious and redemptive ending. Speaking of neighbors, did you also know that there is a statistical fact in genealogy, called degrees of separation, which proves that if you go back only 30 generations we find that we are related to anyone else in the world? Forget your nationality; we are truly all brothers and sisters!

This coming week on Saturday, September 5th, we celebrate the feast day of one very great and contemporary saint, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She was born in Macedonia to well off Albanian parents, she went to school in Dublin, Ireland and felt the call of God to teach in Darjeeling, India. In due time, she developed a compassionate heart for the poor in India and took a course in nursing. The rest is history, because for four decades this little woman worked tirelessly for the poor and sickly in the City of Calcutta. On September 5th, 1997 God called her home, and just six years later she was canonized a saint by the great Pope John Paul II. Her motto for life was “seeing the face of Jesus, in the poorest of poor.”

Do you see Jesus in the eyes of **everyone** you meet?

“Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”

The words of Jesus from today’s Gospel reading
Mark 7:21

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
Evangelization Committee*