



Essential Evangelization

Quality Time?

When Jesus was asked by a scripture scholar, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment." But how do we really do that? In order to answer that question we can only look at how we love those closest to us. It is by spending time. Some modern day analysts may retort that what we really need is quality time? But what is quality, if not for quantity? It is in the development of relationship that we can love.

Some of the greatest missionaries, when asked that if their zeal for their work of helping others helped them grow closer to God; their answers are a resounding no. In the gospel story at the home of Lazarus, when Martha was busy making preparations for the visit of our Lord, Jesus tells her that, "Mary has chosen the better part." She opted instead to spend time with Him. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus also says, "Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord, will enter the Kingdom of heaven. Many will say....did we not do mighty deeds in your name? Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me you evildoers.'" Even Jesus would have to withdraw from the crowds from time to time in order to recharge in prayer and connect with the Father. Without "quantity" time it is pretty easy getting swept down the wide road of the world in our day-to-day hectic lives. It is also very difficult to find quality time for the Lord in prayer with all the daily distractions and demands of work and family.

One way we can spend a good chunk of quantity and quality time with the Lord is to attend one of the many opportunities for a Men's or Women's weekend retreat at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. You can connect with other men and women who have spirituality as one of their top priorities. You can also meet some great parishioners that can be an encouragement in the faith to you. It is a great opportunity for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, the talks are very inspiring, and the meals and fellowship with other Catholics are great. It's like taking a mini vacation with God! You may come away from the weekend with new or reshuffled priorities and refreshed to tackle life's problems again. Can you not spare one weekend a year to spend with your Lord and Creator?

"Brothers and sisters: Watch carefully how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil."

Eph 5:15

From today's second reading, from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

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