



Lafayette Lenten Reflection Day

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Catholic Identity

As Catholics involved in the life of the Church if we are going to “think properly” we need to ask:

- Who are we?
- Why do we exist?
- What is our purpose?



“Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.”

Evangelii Nuntiandi, 14

“The agent for transmitting the faith is the universal Church...In past decades; the local Churches have done their utmost in this field. Yet, “the cultural climate and the general state of fatigue in many Christian communities in our local Churches is endangering the proclamation of the faith, its transmission to others and instruction in the faith”

Linamenta for the 2012 Synod on the New Evangelization, 15

1. Revitalized Parishes



“For in the Church’s history, missionary drive has always been a sign of vitality just as it’s lessening is a sign of crisis of faith.”

Redemptoris Missio, 2

2. Revitalized Faith



“..only by becoming missionary will the Christian community be able to overcome its internal divisions and tensions, and rediscover its unity and its strength of faith. ”

Redemptoris Missio, 49

3. Unity



It Should Be Normal...

- to have a living, growing love relationship with God.
- to be knowledgeable about the faith.
- to know what your charisms of service are and to use them
- to know that you have a vocation/mission given by God.
- to be actively engaged in discerning & living that vocation.
- to have fellowship of other committed lay Catholics available.

IS IT NORMAL...?

For the local parish to function consciously as a house of formation that enables and empowers lay Catholics to do all of these.



For discussion

- What would happen if every parish member, every student, every family understood their deepest identity as Catholics?
- Which of these is most normal for you? Which is least normal?
- What would your parish / school look like if these things were "normal"?
- What obstacles do you see preventing revitalized parishes, revitalized faith, and unity from being a reality?
