

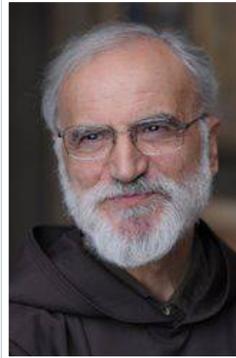
THRESHOLDS FOR ACCOMPANIMENT

Meeting people where they are

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WHEN DOES DISCIPLESHIP BEGIN?

[When] adult persons at last have the occasion to hear the kerygma, renew their own baptism, consciously choose Christ as their own personal Lord and Savior, and commit themselves actively in the life of their Church.



Fr. Cantalamessa

(quoted on page 66 of Forming Intentional Disciples)

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THRESHOLDS OF PRE-DISCIPLESHIP



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INITIAL TRUST

Basic, felt trust of something or someone associated with Christ or the Church

WHAT IT'S NOT:

Trust is NOT the same as personal faith. Trust does not indicate whether or not someone has ever really prayed or whether they have ever had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ

HOW TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD:

- Form authentic personal relationships
- We cannot evangelize what we do not love!

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SPIRITUAL CURIOSITY

A person finds himself intrigued by or desiring to know more about Jesus, his life, and his teachings or some aspect of the Christian faith.

WHAT IT'S NOT:

A person at the threshold of curiosity is not open to personal change. This is often mistaken for serious seeking but curiosity comes upon the person in that threshold, serious seeking is an active step rather than a passive response.

HOW TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD:

- Curiosity needs to be directed toward the person of Jesus Christ
- Tell stories about Jesus' life and your own relationship with him
- "You can easily quench inquiries by drowning a teaspoon full of curiosity with a gallon of answers"

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SPIRITUAL OPENNESS

A person acknowledges to himself and to God that he is open to the possibility of a personal and spiritual change

WHAT IT'S NOT:

This is not Intentional Discipleship. Being open does not mean that a person is necessarily ready to change their life

HOW TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD:

- Witness to your own change
- Show them how God is working in their life
- Have them ask God for a sign
- Ask if you can pray for their openness
- Ask them to pray to become more open

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7 SPIRITUAL SEEKING

The person moves from being essentially passive to actively seeking to know the God who is calling him or her.

WHAT IT'S NOT:

Though close, seeking is not intentional discipleship. A person may be on the boat and have all the gear, but they are not yet fishing.

HOW TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD:

- Introduce the person to the works of mercy
- Teach about different prayer traditions and practices
- Help them confront and wrestle with personal sin

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8 INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

This is the decision to "drop one's nets," to make a conscious commitment to follow Jesus in the midst of his Church as an obedient disciple and to reorder one's life accordingly.

WHAT IT'S NOT:

This is not the end of anything. Intentional Discipleship is the beginning of a long and fruitful journey toward Heaven.

HOW TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD:

- Pray ardently and be aware of the devil
- Try to remove obstacles:
 - Personal Sin - (Encourage and Challenge in virtue)
 - Wounds - (Healing from Body of Christ)

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DISCIPLES BEAR MUCH FRUIT

People's priorities begin to change. They begin to:

- WORSHIP
- PRAY
- SERVE
- GIVE
- STUDY
- DISCERN

HABITS OF
INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

*Not out of guilt, but out of a living,
growing relationship with God.*

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WE MUST NOT CONFUSE:

PASSIVE

Initial Trust
Curiosity
Openness



ACTIVE

Personal Faith
Serious Seeking
Intentional Discipleship

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What percent of your parishioners, would you estimate, are intentional disciples?

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CURRENT STATE

Only 48% of American Catholics are certain that you can have a **personal relationship with God**.

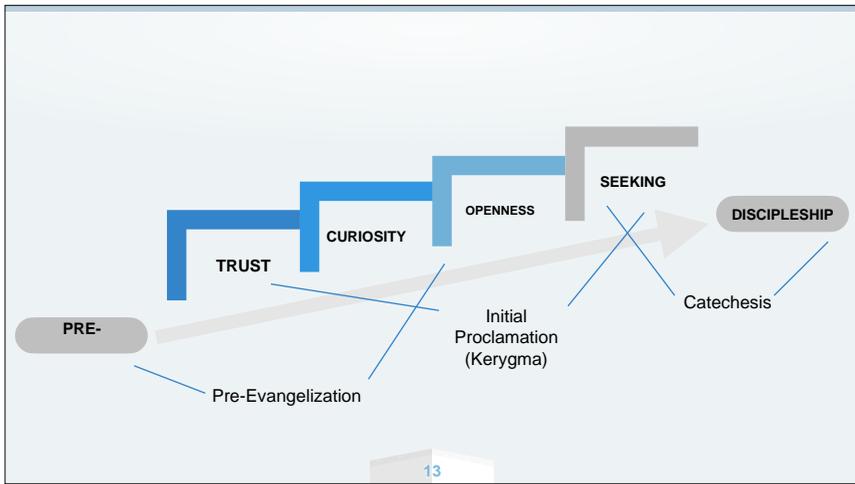
Among self-identified adult Catholics, 45% go to church once a month and on major holidays. 4% attend mass weekly and make other church activities happen.

Approximately 5% of that 4% have reached intentional discipleship or beyond

We have come to accept religious "activity" or "identity" without personal faith and intentional discipleship as normal. Acceptance of relative fruitlessness as "normal" has profoundly shaped the lives of all the baptized, our parochial culture, our pastoral practice, and our mission to the world.

Sherry Weddell

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