

BAPTISTINE PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bulletin

March 2017

Focus: Spiritual Works of Mercy - Instruct the Ignorant

Tradition considers **instructing the ignorant** as ministering to those who need better education in the faith. Catechetical programs are designed specifically to answer this need. Since Jesus first preached the Good News, he has taught us to seek those who would be most comforted by it. All our religious education and adult faith formation programs are premised on the need to instruct the people so that they may be fully incorporated into the community of faith. Biblically speaking, this action comes directly from Jesus when He instructs His apostles.

Scripture: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Reflection: At one point or another we are called to share “facts” and knowledge about the truths of our faith. But as the saying goes, “More is caught than taught.” So communicating spiritual and Christian wisdom is a way of life, not simply a “memorized lecture”; it should touch the head and the heart and therefore it transform the whole person—intellectually, spiritually, morally, and emotionally. **Therefore to instruct the ignorant in this way requires a life of witness; it requires that we radiate the love, peace, and joy that Christ has lavished upon us—and only in this way we can authentically communicate it to others.**



Action:

- Be a role model of faith—actions are more convincing than words
- Consider being a mentor at a non-profit organization, e.g. Covenant House, or a catechist at your parish religious education program
- Take the responsibility to grow in the knowledge of our faith’s teachings and share with those around you. Visit www.usccb.org to learn more about the Catholic faith
- Take a look in the mirror. Examine your conscience. Do you practice what you preach? Pope Blessed Paul VI rightly proclaimed, “**Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.**”

Prayer: That God may help us to always be a witness of his love and mercy. We pray..

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