

St. Mary's of the Lake, Watkins Glen, NY
St. Benedict's, Odessa, NY



Made for Discipleship, Part I

Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff
October 26, 2023

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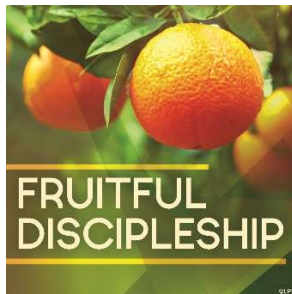
Webinar Tips

- All participants are muted to reduce background noise
- If slides are not fully visible, check at the top center of your screen for “fit to window” under arrow.
- If you would like to ask a question, at the bottom of your screen you should see a box with the letters “Q & A”. Click it and you can type your question. It will show on my screen.
- In addition to the slides, you should see a video of me. It should appear in the upper right of your screen. It should not block any significant content on the slides. If it does, you can drag it around.

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Opening
Prayer

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Why This Series?

“In 1974, Archbishop Fulton Sheen said in a conference, **“We are at the end of Christendom. Not of Christianity, not of the Church, but of Christendom.** Now, what is meant by Christendom? **Christendom is economic, political, social life as inspired by Christian principles.** That is ending – we’ve seen it die... **These are great and wonderful days in which to be alive.**...It is not a gloomy picture – it is a picture of the Church in the midst of increasing opposition from the world. And therefore live your lives in the full consciousness of this hour of testing, and rally close to the heart of Christ”(As quoted in *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. Preface, my emphasis).

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Why This Series? cont'd

“The Church needs to pay attention to the modes by which she carries on her graced battle to be sure she is not fighting yesterday’s war” (*Christendom*, 2).

During Christendom, the Church operated in a maintenance mode (*Christendom*, 20). With the demise of Christendom, we are in an apostolic age where we must focus on mission. Our mission determines what it means to be “church” and to be “disciples”.

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Why This Series? cont'd

Last Fall I did a series called *Being Church in Today’s World* (www.renewaloffaith.org/beingchurch). That series was done from the perspective of how we are called to be church as a group.

This series focuses on what means for us individually to be disciples.

Glemkowski writes, “The Crisis the Church faces today is one of discipleship, and that crisis extends to almost every level of leadership in the Church...Without a personal relationship with Christ and practical experience in helping others encounter Christ” (Glemkowski, 14).

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Why This Series? cont'd

What does Eucharist Revival have to do with discipleship?

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Are You a

- Cultural Catholic
- Spectator Catholic
- Cafeteria Catholic
- or an ***Intentional*** Disciple?

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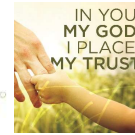
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Lukewarm

During Christendom, many Christians were just lukewarm in their faith (*Christendom*, see 22-23).

Revelation 3:14-16 – “To the angel of the church in Laodicea, write this: “The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the source of God’s creation, says this: “I know your works; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. So, because you are **lukewarm**, neither hot nor cold, **I will spit you out of my mouth.**”

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The Cost of Discipleship Has Risen

“In an apostolic age the hostility of the wider culture can make a settled life difficult” (*Christendom*, 27).

“Precisely because of the high cost of discipleship, the great temptation in an apostolic age is not to hypocrisy but to cowardice” (*Christendom*, 28).

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41).

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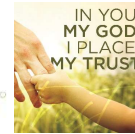
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The Cost of Discipleship Has Risen (cont’d)

“In an apostolic age the Church needs to be not less, but more exacting of her members; the distinct lines of her life and vision need to be made clearer, not mistier” (*Christendom*, 62).

Now is not the time to slack off!

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When Does One Become a Disciple?

In her book, *Forming Intentional Disciples*, Weddell tells stories of those who might be very involved in parish activities but do not have a relationship with God (see one of these stories on page 10).

“We learned that there is a chasm the size of the Grand Canyon between the Church’s sophisticated theology of the lay apostolate and the *lived* spiritual experience of the majority of our people. And this chasm has a name: *discipleship*” (Weddell, 11, emphasis in original).

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What is Discipleship?

“We discovered, to our surprise and dismay, that many pastoral leaders do not even possess a conceptual category for discipleship” (Weddell, 11).

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Define Disciple(ship)

- Matthew 7:21 - “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.**”
- Matthew 8:21– “Another of [his] disciples said to him, “Lord, let me go first and bury my father.”
- Matthew 10:24-25a – “No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master.”

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Define Disciple(ship) cont'd

- If we are the student, who is the master?
 - God as creator
 - Genesis 2:7 - “then the Lord God **formed** the man out of the dust of the ground and **blew into his nostrils the breath of life**, and the man became a living being.”
 - Genesis 2:15 - “The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.”
 - Genesis 1:26, 28 – God gives us **dominion**.
 - Does evolution eliminate God as master and creator?
 - *For more on evolution see my webpage, “Catholic Teaching and the Question of Evolution” online at <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/evolution.html>.

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Define Disciple(ship) cont'd

- Morality - live what I believe
- Humility - Matthew 6:3 – “*But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing.*”
- Obedience - Philippians 2:1-11
- What it means to be a Eucharistic people
 - Washing feet (John 13:1-15)

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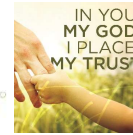
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Define Disciple(ship) cont'd

“Christian discipleship means, among other things, working to ensure **that all people** have access to what makes them fully human and foster’s their human dignity; faith, education, health care, housing, employment, and leisure. Members of the Church are called to build up the resources of the Church herself and of civil society in making possible the sharing of God’s blessings and social goods with others” (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, 454-455, my emphasis).

→ Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew 25:31-46)

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Define Disciple(ship) cont'd

“A disciple is someone who has made, in Saint John Paul II’s words, a “**personal and conscious decision**” to give their **entire** life to God” (Glemkowski, 55, my emphasis).

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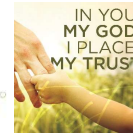
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Discipleship Inside and Out

“While faith is far more than its outward forms, without these forms it cannot long survive” (*Christendom*, 49).

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone may say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works. You believe that God is one. You do well. **Even the demons believe that and tremble**” (James 2:14-19).

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Jesus as the Way...

- Follow me
- I am the gate (John 10)
- God's Commandments and Beatitudes
 - See my presentation, *Are They Rules or a Way of Life* at <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/video---are-they-rules-or-a-way-of-life-.html>

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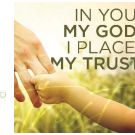


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Jesus as the ...and the Truth....

- John 8:32 - "and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 14:16-17 - "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you."
- Does your faith shape the world or does the world shape your faith?
- See my presentation, *Where Do We Go For Truth* at <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/video---where-do-we-go-for-truth.html>
 - Psychology, sexuality, and church teaching

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Paul writes to, "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. **For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths.** But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

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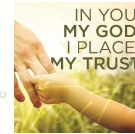


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Jesus asand the Life

- Prayer Life
 - (daily) examination of conscience
 - Discernment
 - Teach us to pray - Lord's Prayer
 - "We must incline ourselves to both receive and give in prayer. Above all else, prayer is a personal exchange with God...prayer, in its essence, is an exchange of love" (Pauley, 49).
 - Praying with the scriptures - lectio divino

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Jesus asand the Life

- Bible/Bible Studies
 - Daily readings
- Is Christ visible in your home?
 - Do you have a place in your home dedicated for prayer? (See my blog article, "Where Do You Go to Find God?" at <http://blog.renewaloffaith.org/blog/?p=6593>)
- Keep the Sabbath Holy - Why do we need to go to Mass?
 - The Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith.
- Moral life
- Golden rule - Other centered

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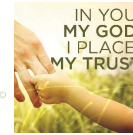


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Conditions for Discipleship

- Matthew 10:37 – “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”
- Luke 14:26 - “If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.”
- Luke 6:36 – “Be merciful, just as [also] your father is merciful.”
- John 8:11 – “Neither do I condemn you, **go [and] do not sin any more.**”

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Conditions for Discipleship cont'd

- Luke 14:27 – “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”
- Luke 14:33 – “In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”
- Matthew 19:23 – “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.”
- Deuteronomy 6:5 – “Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your **whole** hearts, and with your **whole** being, and with your **whole** strength.”

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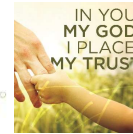


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Disciple as Student

- Matthew 13:36 – “Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

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Are You Willing to Suffer?

- Suffering Servant Oracles In Isaiah
- Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me
- Colossians 1:24 – “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church.”
- John 15:13 – “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

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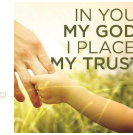


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Future Schedule

- November 9th – Part II
- December 7th – Part III
- When you exit this webinar a short evaluation questionnaire should come up to invite your feedback.
- The slides for this presentation will be available online at <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/madefordiscipleship>

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Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

Glemkowski, Tim, *Made for Mission: Renewing Your Parish Culture.* Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor. 2019.

Martin, Curtis, *Making Missionary Disciples: How to Live the Method Modeled by the Master.* Genesee, Colorado: FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. 2018.

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Resources cont'd

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Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est.* December 25, 2005. https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est.html

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Riccardo, Fr. John, *Rescued: The Unexpected and Extraordinary News of the Gospel.* Frederick, MD: Word Among Us Press. 2020.

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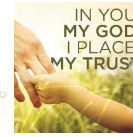
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<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/evangelization/go-and-make-disciples/go-and-make-disciples-a-national-plan-and-strategy-for-catholic-evangelization-in-the-united-states.cfm>



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Wessman, Fr. Aaron, *The Church's Mission in a Polarized World.*
Hyde Park: NY. 2023.