

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



## *Made for Discipleship, Part II*

Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff  
November 9, 2023

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## *Made for Discipleship, Part II*

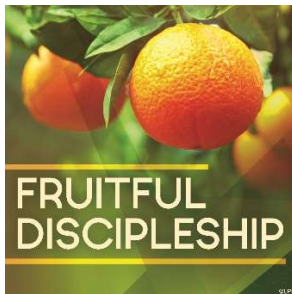
### Webinar Tips

- 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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## *Made for Discipleship, Part II*



Opening  
Prayer

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## *Made for Discipleship, Part II*

### Review Part I

- Why this series?
  - An end to Christendom → need for stronger discipleship
  - A lukewarm disciple is not a full disciple
  - Humility & Obedience
  - Eucharistic people
  - Works of mercy
  - Bible verses on discipleship

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

Review Part I 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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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

Catechesis  
Vs.  
Formation

(see Weddell, 52-53)

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II


Catechesis only

- Knowledge

Formation:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- ***Relationship***

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

Formation as a Disciple Involves 4 Pillars:

1. Human – The person the world sees and our needs
2. Intellectual – Learning what our faith teaches
3. Spiritual – Praying from our hearts
4. Pastoral – Bearing fruit

(see Glemkowski, 110).

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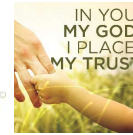


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### Relationship

“The majority of Catholics in the United States are *sacramentalized* but not *evangelized*” (Weddell, 46, emphasis in original).

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Relationship cont'd

“Rather, the Church’s primary stance before an unbelieving world is not the imposition of law, which assumes knowledge of its existence and purpose, but ***the invitation***, under an attitude of mercy and hope, ***into a relationship with the living God*** and incorporation into the new humanity, to an entirely new way of being and of seeing, one that liberates and that brings meaning and joy” (*Christendom*, 63, my emphasis).

The first three lines can be strictly catechesis.  
We are made to know God and ***be loved by God***.

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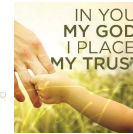
### Relationship cont'd

“Nearly a third of self-identified Catholics believe in an *impersonal God*” (Weddell, 43, emphasis in original).

John 3:16-17 – “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.*”

God did not create the world and then walk away. He remains in an active relationship with his people.

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### Relationship cont'd

“Spirit of Silence” – those who do have this relationship and are disciples keep silent because they feel like they don’t fit in or that Catholics will think they are weird for talking about their faith (see Weddell, 58)

In the evaluations from Part I one person spoke of times when they were silenced in a Catholic Bible study for speaking of a ***personal*** relationship with Jesus because that’s something Protestants do but not Catholics.

- ***Personal*** – your own relationship vs. “personal” meaning you determine for yourself what you believe.

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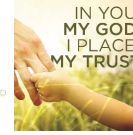
### Relationship cont'd

Who are Jesus' Brothers and Sister

Luke 8:19-21- "Then his mother and his brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you." He said to them in reply, "**My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.**"

That's relationship with God.

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### When Does One Become a Disciple?

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1275*

"Christian Initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together: Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ's Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ." (cf. CCC 1533)

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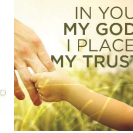
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### When Does One Become a Disciple? Cont'd

"Baptism is a critical first step" (Glemkowski, 56).

- What about someone in RCIA?
- Baptism by desire?
- Baptism of infants – relationship?

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Fruitful Sacraments

"If our pastoral practice is to be life changing, then we must be acutely aware that the *reception of a valid sacrament* and the *fruitful reception of sacramental grace* are two different but related issues. *Validity* means that the sacrament was truly bestowed and the intended grace made truly present to the person receiving the sacrament. But validity does *not* guarantee that the grace made available *has been actively received and is bearing fruit in that person's life*" (Weddell, 99, emphasis in original).

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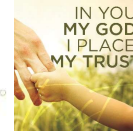


## **Made for Discipleship, Part II**

### **Fruitful Sacraments cont'd**

“Positive disposition” means that we are prepared to change and we actively seek the grace of God in order to do so” (Weddell, 101).

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## **Made for Discipleship, Part II**

### **Fruitful Sacraments cont'd**

“The Church has a remarkable term, “cooperating grace,” for the process whereby we choose our spiritual destiny by freely cooperating with God’s initiative. God first gives us the necessary “prevenient” grace to enable us to respond to his initiative toward us. But we are under no compulsion; we still freely choose to obey” (Weddell, 112).

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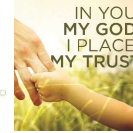
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### **Sacraments – Trent I**

Citing Trent, Weddell writes, “Chapters 4 through 6 of the council’s *Decree of Justification* describe in great detail the sort of spiritual development that needs to be in place for an adult to receive baptism fruitfully. It includes the following:

- Being moved to faith by hearing the basic proclamation of Jesus Christ and his work of salvation.
- Moving intentionally toward God.
- Believing in what God has revealed – especially that God saves sinners through redemption in Jesus Christ.
- Recognizing that one is a sinner.

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## **Made for Discipleship, Part II**

### **Sacraments – Trent 2**

- Trusting in the mercy of God.
- Beginning to hope in and to love God.
- Repenting of personal sin.
- Resolving to be baptized, to begin a new life, and to walk in the obedience of faith

There is one obvious descriptor for someone who has lived all of the above: *disciple*. “ (Weddell, 110-111)

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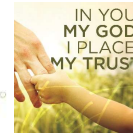
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### Back to the Question: When Does One Become a Disciple?

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC 1319*

“A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, **and be prepared to assume the role of disciple** and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.” (my emphasis)

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Comments from Part I – Saints

Could you give us more saints as examples of discipleship?

- Farmers – St. Isidore and Maria (husband & wife) sainthood/discipleship not just for priests and religious.

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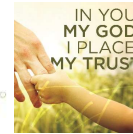


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### The Saints as Examples of Discipleship

- St. Mary – *Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord*
- St. Benedict
- St. Joseph as father and husband
- As bishop, St. Patrick served the people of Ireland who had previously kidnapped him and made him a slave
- Church OR State - St. John Fisher (patron saint of our diocese) and St. Thomas More

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Discipleship Requires Ongoing Conversion

- Samaritan woman at the well
- The man born blind

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

Discipleship Requires *Ongoing Conversion*

*“I do believe; help my unbelief!”*

(Mark 9:24)

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Five Thresholds to Discipleship

1. “Initial Trust: A person is able to *trust* or has a positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, a Christian believer, or something identifiably Christian. Trust is *not* the same as active personal faith”

(Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples*, 129, emphasis in original)

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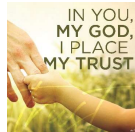
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### Five Thresholds to Discipleship

2. “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...Nevertheless, a person at the threshold of curiosity is not yet open to personal change. Curiosity is still essentially passive, but it is more than mere trust.”

(Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples*, 129, emphasis in original)

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II


### Five Thresholds to Discipleship

3. “Spiritual Openness: A person acknowledges to himself or herself and to God that he or she is open to the *possibility* of personal and spiritual change.” This is one of the most difficult transitions for a postmodern nonbeliever. Openness is not a commitment to change.”

(Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples*, *Forming*, 129, emphasis in original)

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Five Thresholds to Discipleship

4. “Spiritual seeking: The person moves from essentially passive to actively seeking to know the God who is calling him or her. It is, if you will, “dating with a purpose” but not yet marriage.”

(Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples, Forming*, 129)

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### Five Thresholds to Discipleship

5. “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 to reorder one’s life accordingly.”

(Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples, Forming*, 130)

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Are We Aware of Our Need for Conversion?

- Personal awareness of sin
  - “The Gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation”
- How is our faith shaping our life?

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Seeking What We Need for Conversion

#### Parable of the Sower

“Any good gardener knows that the growth process does not begin with the planting of the seed. Rather, the gardener must first attend to the soil into which the seed will be planted. Soil conditions vary greatly, and may require work. Hard ground first needs to be tilled. The rocks and weeds have to be removed. The dirt may need to be supplemented and fortified” (Pauley, 111).

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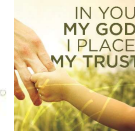


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### Seeking What We Need for Conversion

- We Need An **Encounter** with God to form and sustain us as disciples.
  - Word – the Bible
  - Eucharist
  - Prayer – listening to God
- “Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*) (I).

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Simple Question, Profound Answer

*Who Do You Say that I am?*

The significance of our answer

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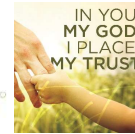


## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Putting Discipleship Into Action

- Go in peace glorifying the Lord by Your Lives → from the Eucharist to discipleship
  - Mass and the Eucharistic Revival
  - Proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed
  - Faith without works is dead
    - stewardship
  - Revelation 3 - neither hot or cold, lukewarm
  - Remnant
  - Discipleship requires us to evangelize
    - Matthew 28:19 – “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.”

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## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### It is Not Easy

John 6:60 - “Then many of his disciples who were listening said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?””

John 6:66-68 - “As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

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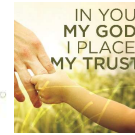


## **Made for Discipleship, Part II**

### **It is Not Easy - The Problem of Evil**

- Spiritual warfare
- Devil exists - Fr. Longenecker
- Evil can be defeated - St. Michael - Revelation 12

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## **Made for Discipleship, Part II**

### **Future Schedule**

- December 7<sup>th</sup> – 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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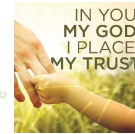
### **Resources**

*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**

Pauley, James C., *An Evangelizing Catechesis: Teaching from Your Encounter with Christ.* Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor. 2020.

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](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est.html)

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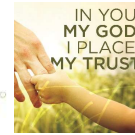
## Made for Discipleship, Part II

### Resources cont'd

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Available at [https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_exh\\_19751208\\_evangelii-nuntiandi.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi.html)

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

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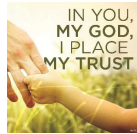
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<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/evangelization/go-and-make-disciples/go-and-make-disciples-a-national-plan-and-strategy-for-catholic-evangelization-in-the-united-states.cfm>

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### Resources cont'd

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Weddell, Sherry A., *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*. Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.,  
Huntington, IN. 2012.

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