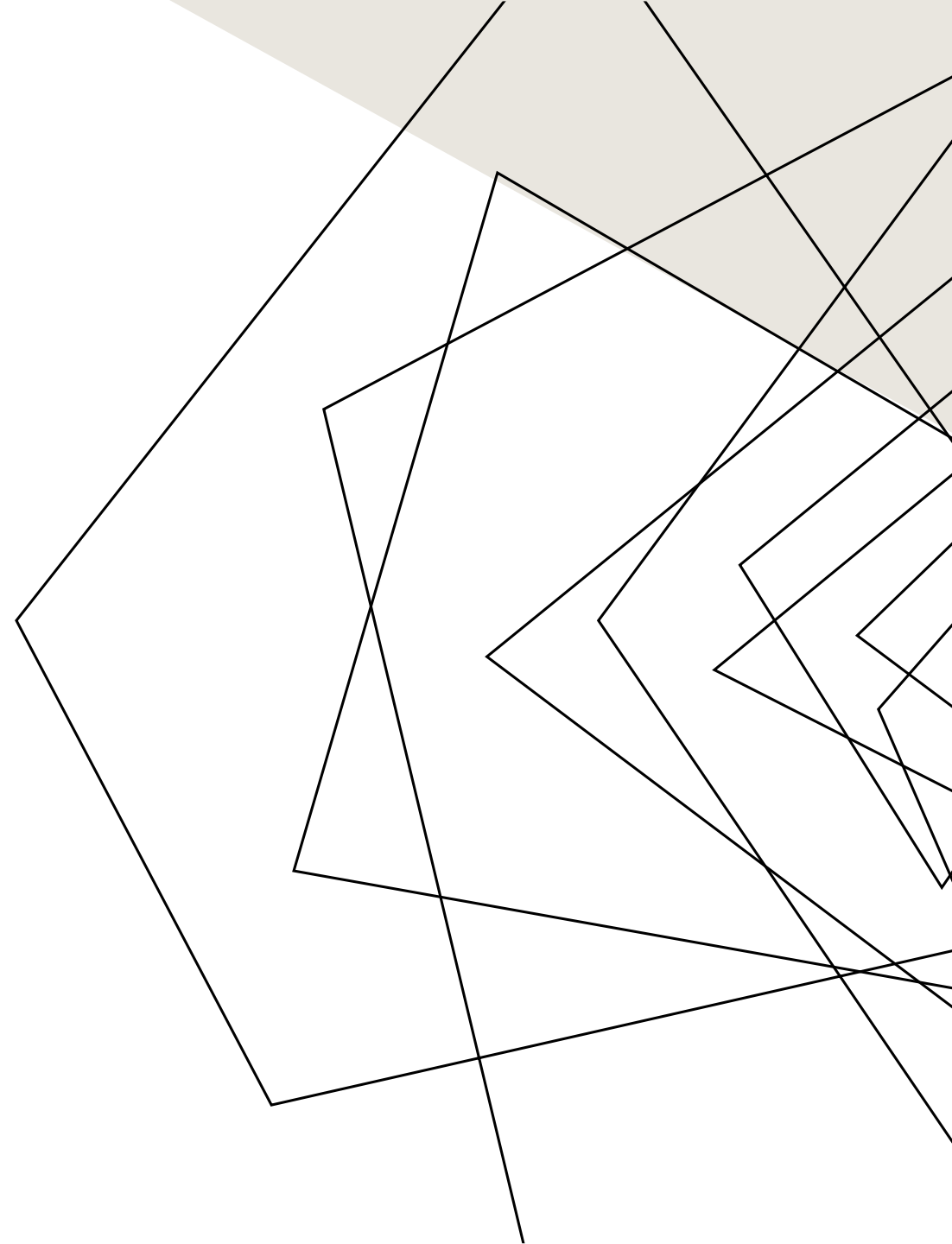


**EVANGELIZATION
TODAY: MEETING
PEOPLE WHERE
THEY ARE**

WHAT DO MARK,
MATTHEW, LUKE AND JOHN
HAVE IN COMMON WITH
YOU?



WORKSHOP GOALS

Understand evangelization as the heart of the Church's mission.

Explore the path from encounter to discipleship in the Catholic tradition.

Reflect on the "New Evangelization" and what it means for catechetical ministry today.

Identify practical, relational ways to accompany seekers, non-practicing Catholics, and the curious.

Leave inspired and equipped to foster missionary discipleship in parish life.

CONGRESO REGIONAL | REGIONAL CONGRESS



WELCOME



***“THE CHURCH EXISTS
TO EVANGELIZE.” –***

POPE PAUL VI, EVANGELII NUNTIANDI



WELCOME EVANGELIZERS





*WHY HOW
WHAT*





Therefore go and make disciples of
all nations, baptizing them in
the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and
teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you
always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19



WE ALL HAVE
SOMETHING
WITHIN US
THAT THIS
WORLD NEEDS.

Therefore go and make disciples of
all nations, baptizing them in
the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and
teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you
always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19



**WHEN HAVE YOU SEEN
SOMEONE COME ALIVE IN
FAITH?
WHAT MADE THAT MOMENT
HAPPEN?**

Take a few minutes with two evangelizers to share a story. It might be from your ministry, your family, or your own faith journey.

THE HEART OF EVANGELIZATION



A photograph of a garden path. The path is made of grey gravel and leads from the foreground into a lush garden. On the left side of the path, there are several purple allium flowers and green ornamental grasses. On the right side, there are more green plants and a black metal trellis archway covered in green leaves. In the background, a white gazebo is visible among the trees. The sky is bright and overcast. The overall scene is peaceful and inviting.

*EVANGELIZATION:
A PATH TO
DISCIPLESHIP*



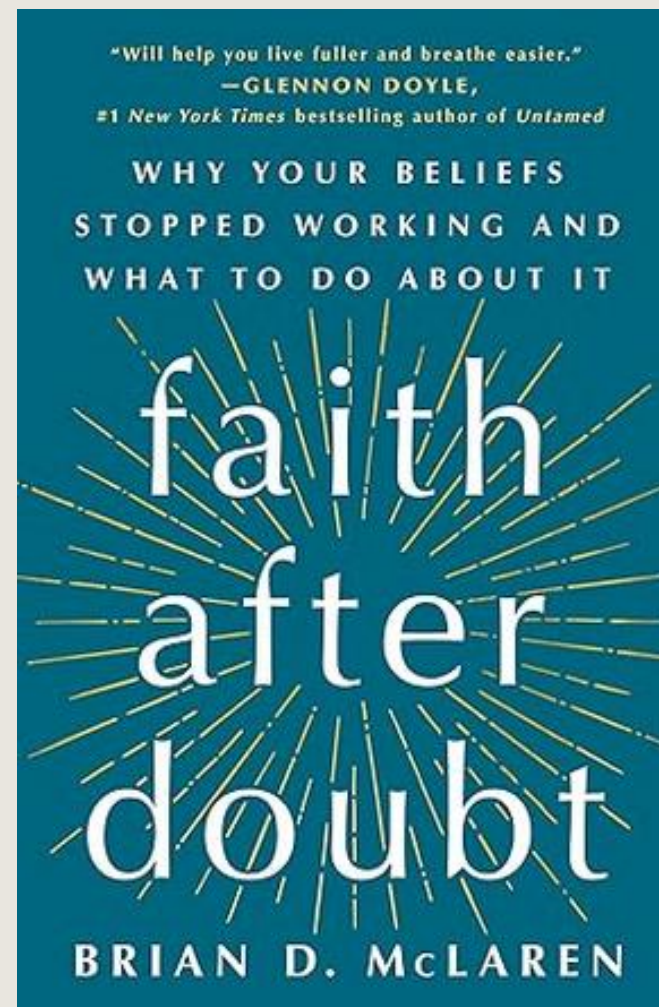
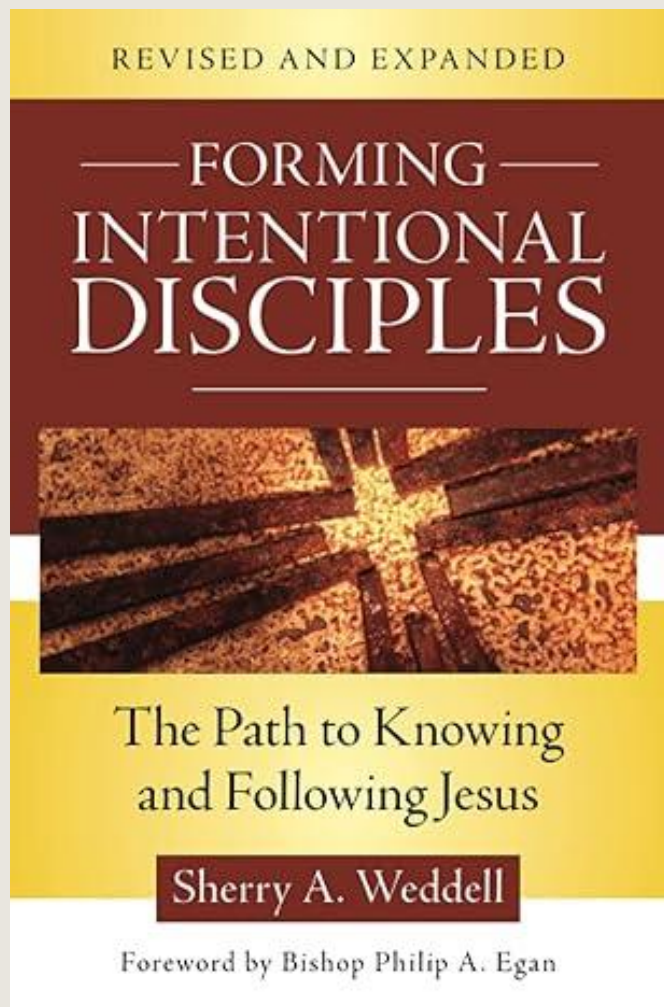
*THE CHURCH HAS
RECEIVED FROM THE
APOSTLES CHRIST'S
SOLEMN COMMAND
TO PROCLAIM THE
TRUTH WHICH SAVES.*

Lumen Gentium 132

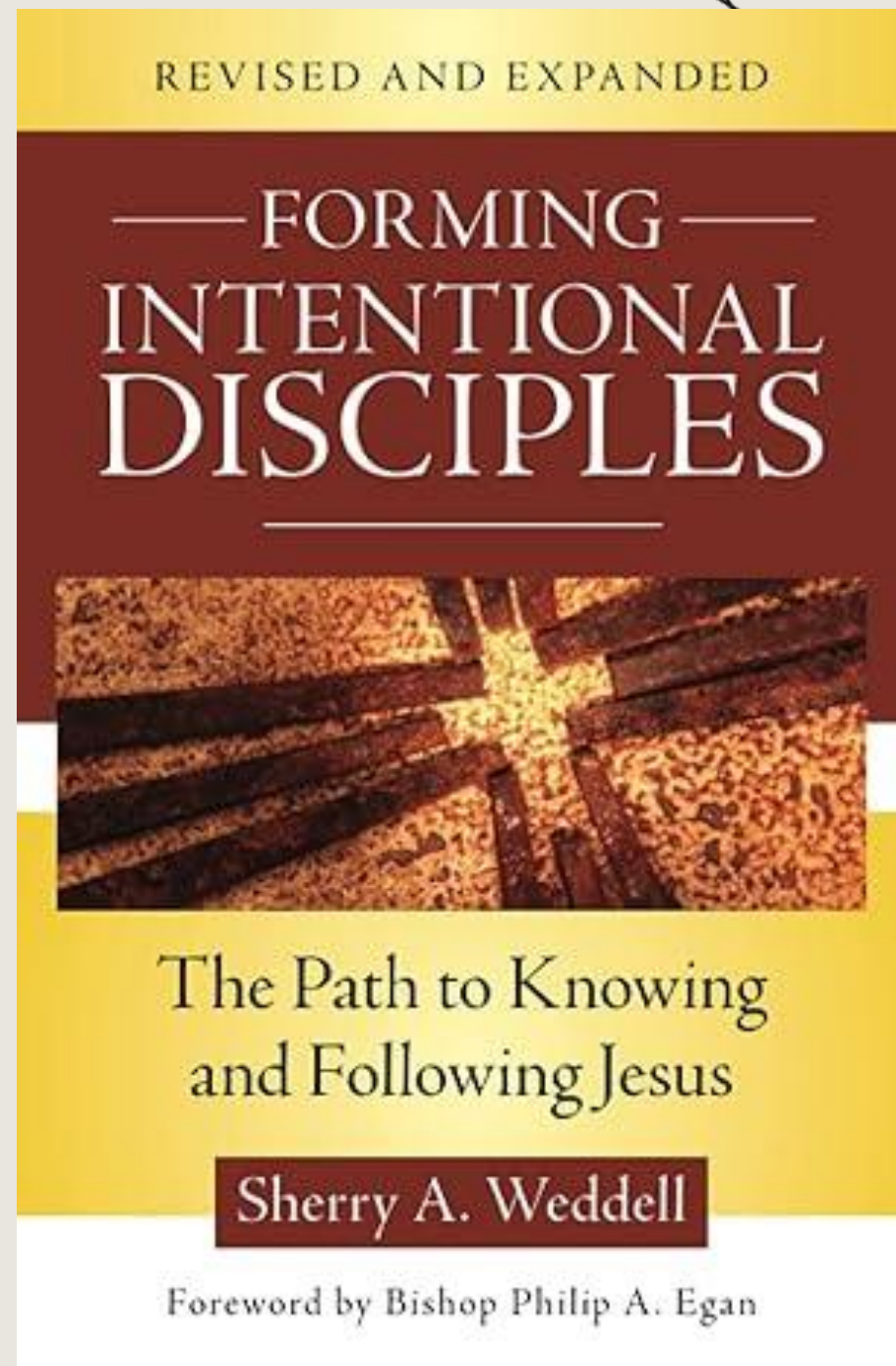
NOW WHAT?



SOME RESOURCES



SOME RESOURCES



WEDDELL

Sherry Weddell helps us see that people grow in faith through stages — she calls them *thresholds*.

Steps	Weddell	McLaren
1	Trust	
2	Curiosity	
3	Openness	
4	Seeking	
5	Discipleship	



Trust – *A bridge of confidence*

→ Having a positive connection or trust in Jesus, the Church, or a believer; the starting point of openness to God.



Curiosity – *Interest awakened*

→ Feeling intrigued by Jesus or the faith, wanting to know more, but not yet ready for personal change.



Openness – *Heart unlocked*

→ Admitting to oneself and to God the possibility of spiritual or personal change; beginning to soften toward faith.



Seeking – *Actively searching*

→ Moving from passive interest to actively exploring faith and discerning commitment to Christ and the Church.



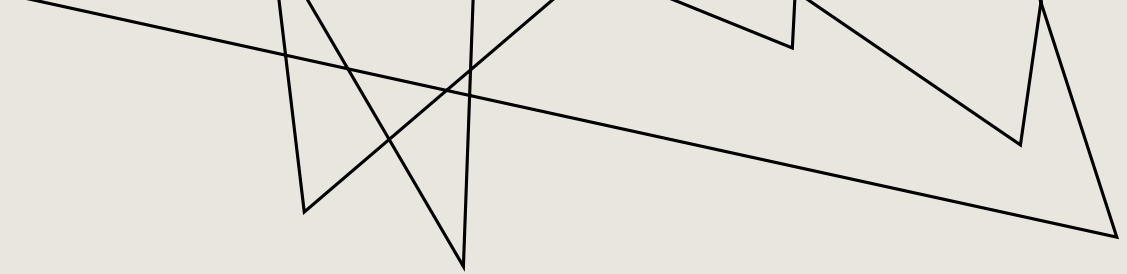
Discipleship – *Following with purpose*

→ Making the conscious decision to follow Jesus fully, reordering one's life around Him, and joining His mission to evangelize others.

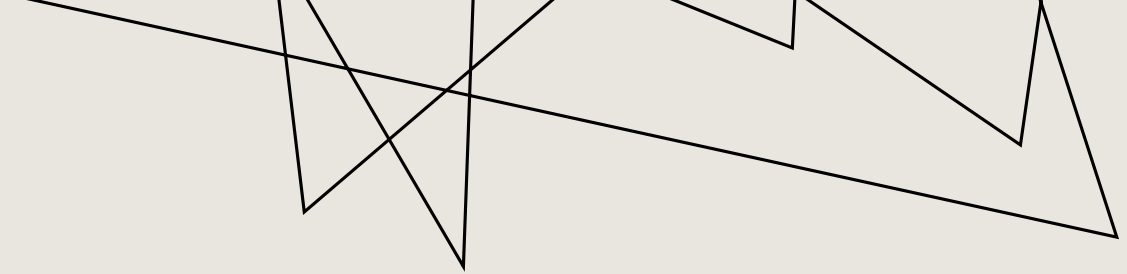


***WHICH THRESHOLD DO
YOU SEE MOST OFTEN
IN YOUR MINISTRY?***

*Take one minute with one
evangelizer and answer this
question.*



*With your partner, stand up and
get together with another pair
and answer this question...*



With your partner, stand up and get together with another pair and answer this question.

**HOW CAN YOU
RESPOND AS A
CATECHIST/
EVANGELIZER?**

SOME RESOURCES

"Will help you live fuller and breathe easier."

—GLENNON DOYLE,

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Untamed*

WHY YOUR BELIEFS
STOPPED WORKING AND
WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

faith
after
doubt

BRIAN D. McLAREN

MCLAREN

Brian McLaren's theory of doubt to faith describes faith as a dynamic journey in which honest doubt is not the enemy of belief but a vital stage that deepens understanding, authenticity, and spiritual growth.

Steps	Weddell	McLaren
1	Trust	Simplicity
2	Curiosity	Complexity
3	Openness	Perplexity
4	Seeking	Harmony
5	Discipleship	>> A Life of Mission



Simplicity – *Faith is clear and certain*

→ Seeing the world in black and white; believing answers are straightforward and absolute.



Complexity – *Faith learns to manage doubt*

→ Recognizing that life and belief are more nuanced; developing practical ways to navigate uncertainty.



Perplexity – *Faith questions everything*

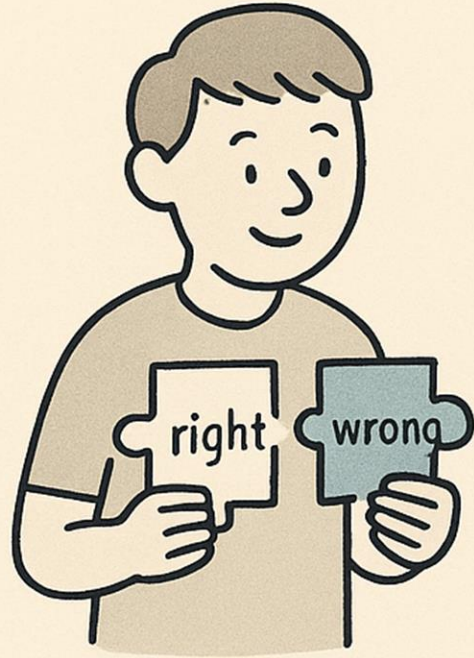
→ Experiencing deep doubt and disillusionment; old answers no longer satisfy, leading to honest struggle.



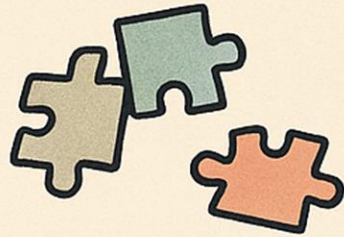
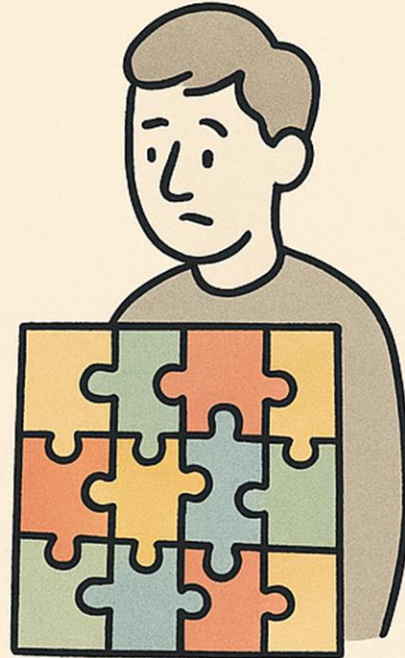
Harmony – *Faith finds peaceful integration*

→ Embracing mystery and compassion; living with both faith and doubt in balance, centered on love.

FROM SIMPLICITY TO HARMONY



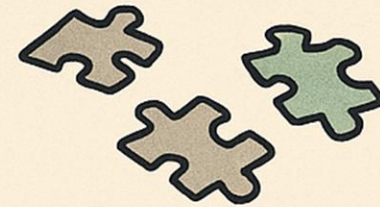
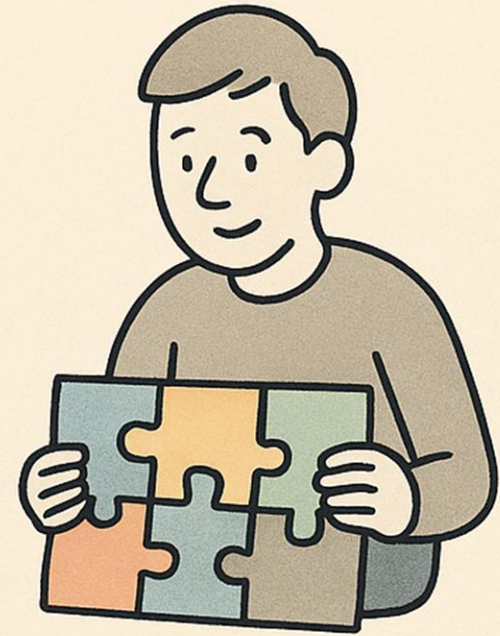
SIMPLICITY



COMPLEXITY




PERPLEXITY



HARMONY



*Find someone you have not
talked with yet.*

A person with short grey hair, wearing a blue hoodie, is sitting in a dark wooden chair in a restaurant or cafe at night. They are looking out a window towards a brightly lit street with warm, glowing lights. The background is blurred, showing the interior of the establishment with other tables and chairs.

*Find someone you have not
talked with yet.*

**WHERE DO YOU SEE
YOURSELF RIGHT NOW
ON THE JOURNEY
FROM SIMPLICITY TO
HARMONY?**

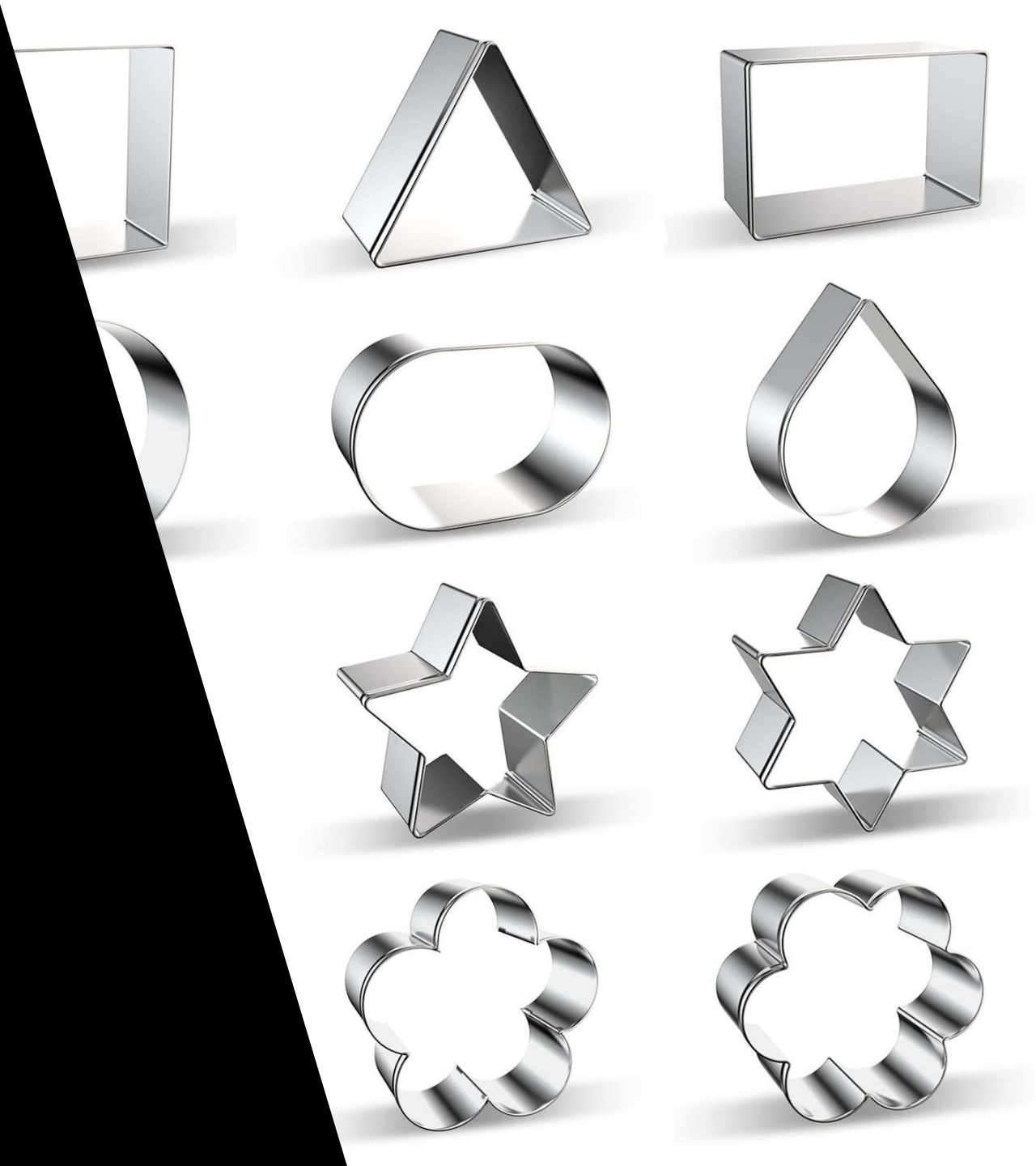


With that same partner

WHEN YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED A SHIFT (FROM SIMPLICITY TO...) HOW DID THAT CHANGE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?"



NO COOKIE
CUTTERS HERE



SO WHAT?





TRUST AND SIMPLICITY

Weddell begins with trust—a person begins to trust a believer, the Church, or Jesus Himself.

McLaren calls this stage simplicity—faith feels clear and certain; it provides safety and belonging.

In both frameworks, people need connection and stability before they can move forward.



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CURIOSITY AND COMPLEXITY

- **Once trust is in place, people begin to ask questions.**
 - ❖ **Weddell calls this spiritual curiosity—that gentle stirring of “Tell me more.”**
 - ❖ **McLaren names it complexity—the stage where faith starts asking, “How do I live this out? What does it mean in the real world?”**
- **At this point, we accompany seekers, not with all the answers, but with good questions.**

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OPENNESS AND PERPLEXITY

- Now, this is where things get real.



For Weddell, the third threshold is openness—a person begins to admit, “I might need to change.”

For McLaren, it’s perplexity—faith that once felt certain now feels confusing. People doubt, wrestle, and sometimes walk away for a time.

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SEEKING AND HARMONY

- They begin actively searching for God.



For Weddell, They want to know the truth; they desire relationship

For McLaren, harmony, describes what happens when people start integrating everything—belief, doubt, love, and action—into a deeper, more mature spirituality.

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DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

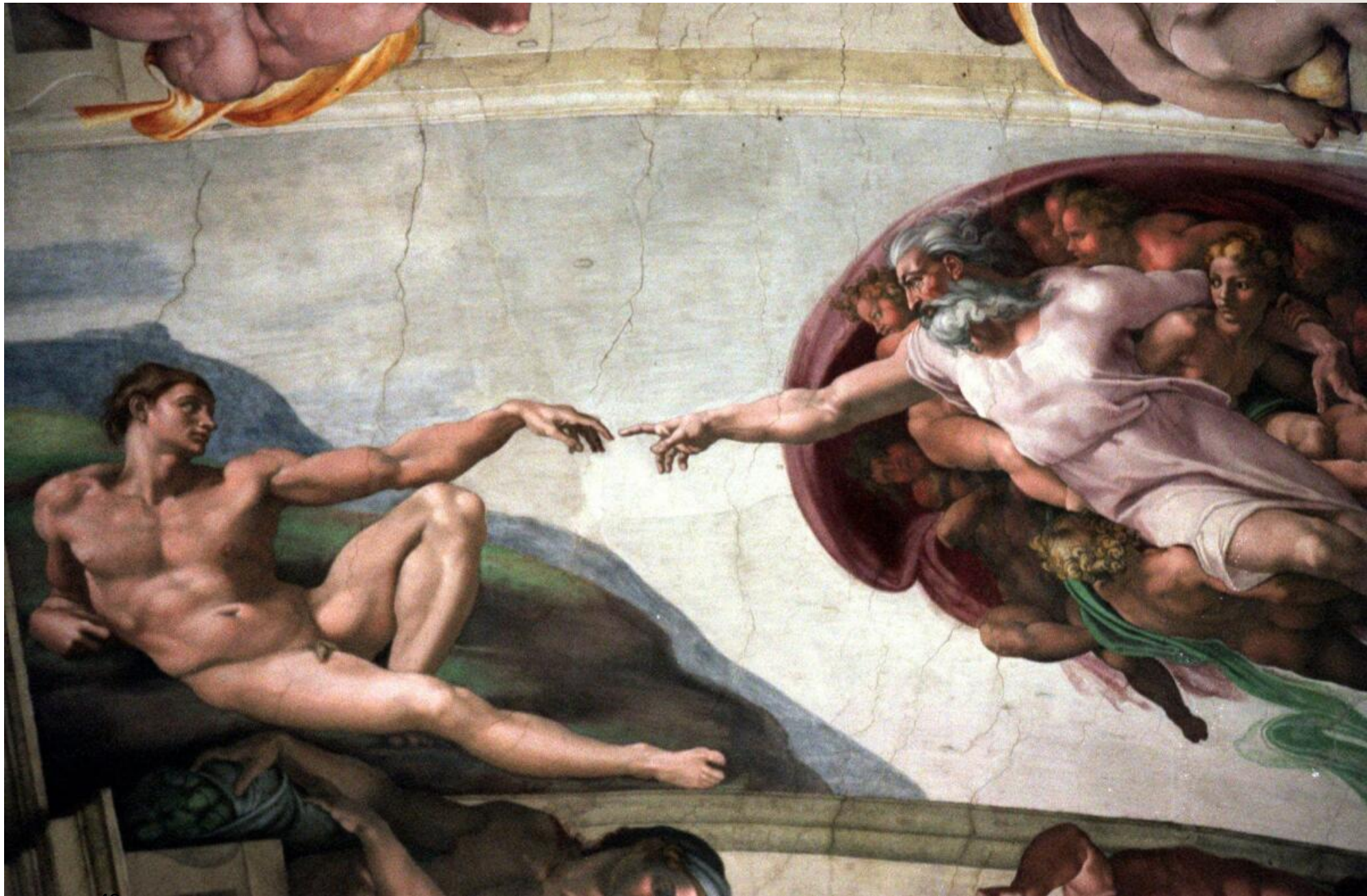


For Weddell, this final threshold is called intentional discipleship—the decision to follow Jesus fully, reordering one’s life around Him.

For McLaren it’s the fullness of harmony—a faith that unites heart and mind, compassion and justice.

WHAT'S YOUR MISSION?

- ❖ To be trustworthy witnesses in God's love
- ❖ Create spaces where people can wander, explore, and make connections
- ❖ It's about accompanying
- ❖ It's not about having answers it's about living from love
- ❖ The journey doesn't end with belief it begins with mission

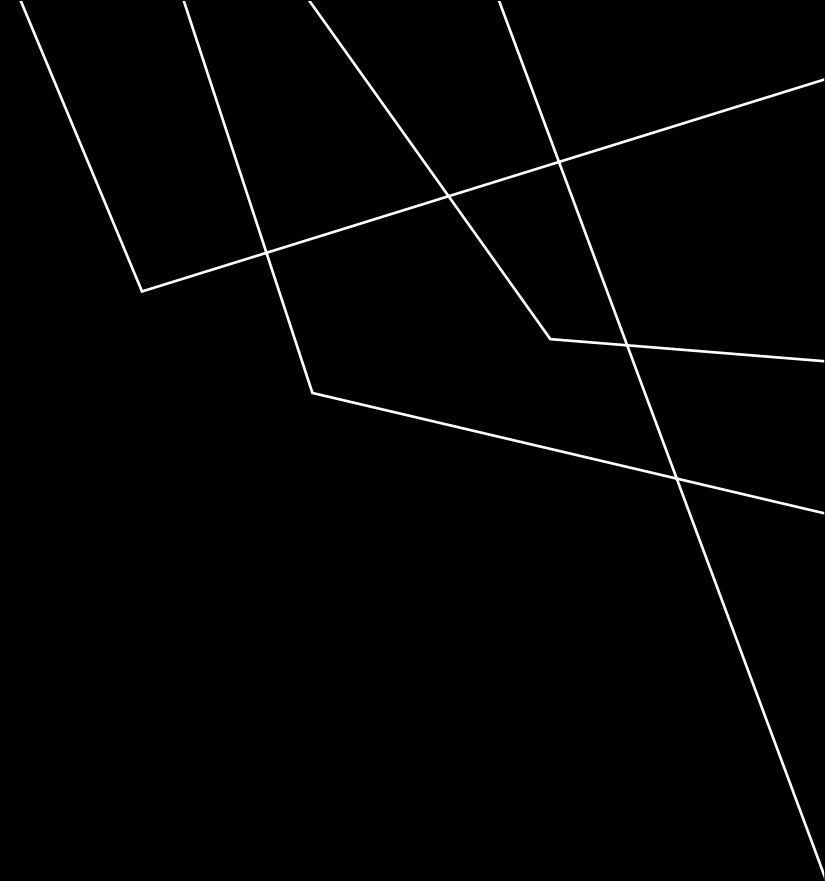
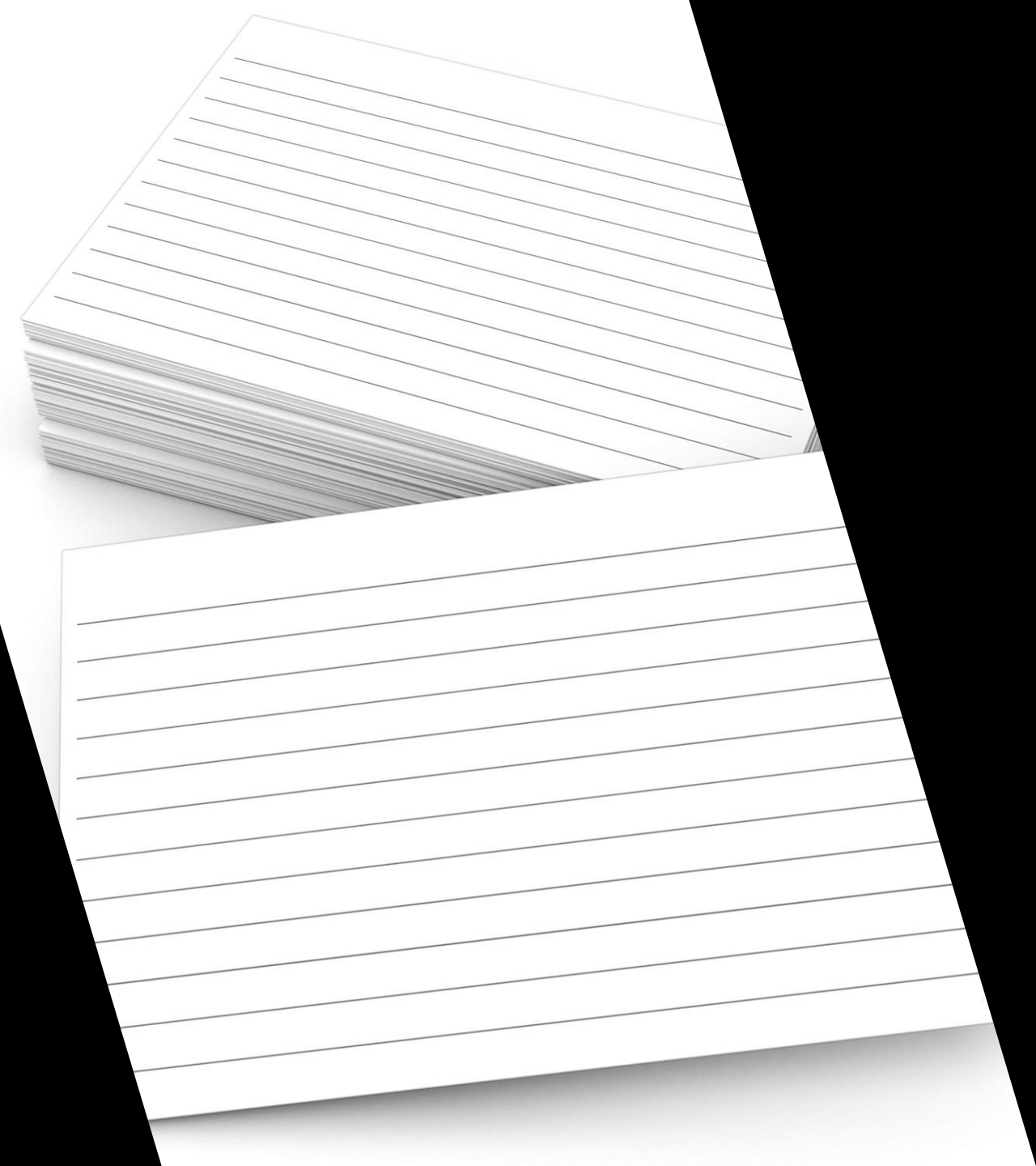






*“I DREAM OF A
MISSIONARY
IMPULSE
CAPABLE OF
TRANSFORMING
EVERYTHING.”*

*— POPE FRANCIS,
EVANGELII GAUDIUM*

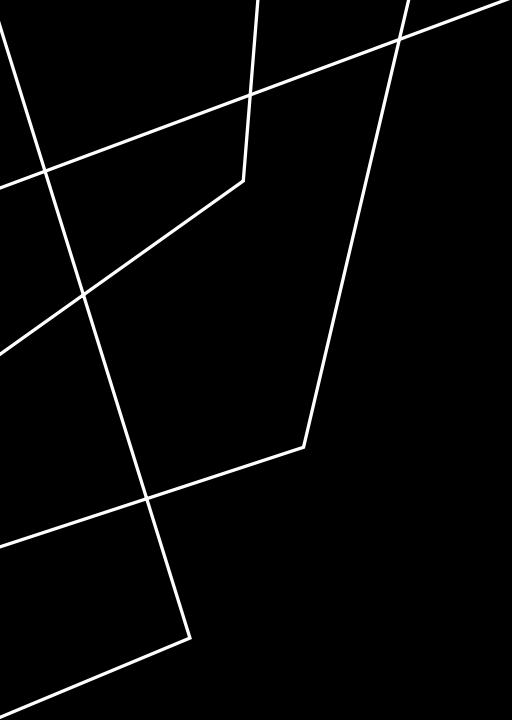


YOUR TURN
TO BE POPE



- WHAT MIGHT *GOING FORTH* LOOK LIKE FOR THEM?
A PERSONAL INVITATION? LISTENING SESSION? SERVICE OPPORTUNITY?







**“EVANGELIZATION
IS NOT ABOUT
PROSELYTIZING,
BUT ABOUT
ATTRACTION —
THE JOY OF THE
GOSPEL.”**

**— POPE FRANCIS,
EVANGELII GAUDIUM**



*REACHING THE
SEEKER: FROM
CURIOSITY TO
ENCOUNTER*

SEEKERS



Practicing Catholics – seeking deeper discipleship.



Non-practicing Catholics – baptized but not catechized.



People of other faiths – seeking dialogue and understanding.



The unaffiliated or spiritually wounded – longing for healing or meaning.



WRITE ON YOUR STICKY PAPER

- Choose one type of seeker from the list.



SEEKERS



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WRITE ON YOUR STICKY PAPER

- Choose one type of seeker from the list.
- As it relates to the seeker you have chosen, consider one real or imagined example from your own church, ministry or...





WRITE ON YOUR STICKY PAPER

- Choose one type of seeker from the list.
- As it relates to the seeker you have chosen, consider one real or imagined example from your own church, ministry or...
- Write a possible solution as you hear some examples ...





**RELATIONAL
MINISTRY**

BUILDING TRUST
THROUGH PRESENCE
AND ACCOMPANIMENT



SMALL GROUPS

THREE IS ENOUGH,
FAITH SHARING,
BOOKS, OUTINGS



RETREATS

SERVICE
EVANGELIZATION
THROUGH ACTION
AND COMPASSION



**ONGOING
FORMATION**
DISCIPLESHIP AS
LIFELONG LEARNING
AND GROWTH.



*THE CHURCH
GROWS BY
ATTRACTION — BY
THE BEAUTY OF
WITNESS*





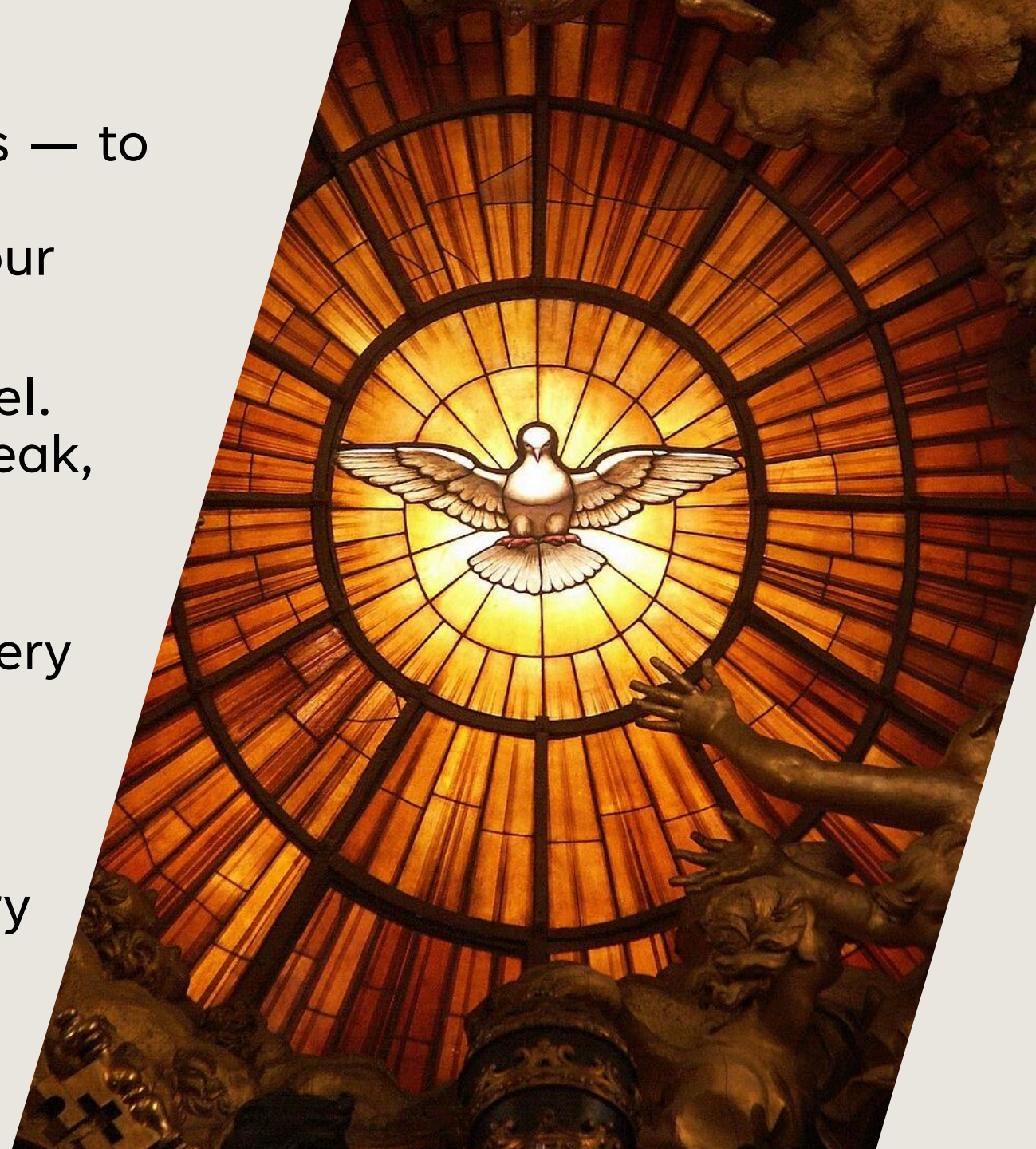
WRITE ON YOUR STICKY PAPER

- Now write what you are going to do.



Evangelization is our identity —
it's who we are as Church. Every
catechist/evangelist, every
conversation, every moment of
mercy participates in that
mission.

- Lord Jesus,
You call us to be your witnesses — to
make disciples,
to share your mercy, to build your
Kingdom.
- Kindle in us the joy of the Gospel.
Teach us to listen before we speak,
to love before we judge,
to serve before we teach.
- May every ministry we lead, every
smile we share,
every prayer we whisper
draw someone closer to You.
- Send us forth as your missionary
disciples —
joyful, hopeful, and filled with
your Spirit





**BE WHO GOD
MEANT YOU TO BE,
AND YOU WILL SET
THE WORLD ON
FIRE.”**

St. Catherine of Siena



THANK YOU

Dawn Kopitcke Ponnet
Faith Forms at Dawn