



Chapter - 12

I am a witness of Jesus



- Are there any people or experiences that have influenced you most deeply in your life?
- In what ways have these experiences influenced you?
- With whom and how have you shared such experiences?

Profound experiences transform our lives. They inspire us to share them with others. The profound Jesus experience of the disciples radically changed their lives. That intense divine encounter stirred them from within to share it with others. Jesus, whom they experienced as the Lord, God, and friend, they

- experienced
 - worshipped
 - proclaimed
- and became witnesses

- Shouldn't we introduce our beloved Jesus to the world, the One who loved us immensely, stood by us, and shed His blood for us?
- Just as we have received the salvation of Jesus, shouldn't our loved ones receive it, too?

Then, let us also go,

follow Him...

and be His witnesses.

Jesus fulfilled the establishment of the Kingdom of God through His life by giving the Father to the world. He commissioned His disciples to proclaim throughout the world everything He had spoken, done, and accomplished for the salvation of humanity.

After the resurrection, Jesus said to His disciples:

"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mk 16:15).

From the very beginning, Christ's disciples had an intense



Just before the ascension, Jesus said to His disciples:
"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).



Proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who rose from the dead, is the Gospel or the Good News. With the help of the Holy Bible, find out how this Gospel spread throughout the world and share it in class.

desire to proclaim Him with the goal of leading everyone to faith in Jesus (CCC 425).

"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life" (1 Jn 1:1).

The Church teaches us that it is the duty of the disciples of Jesus who have received baptism to proclaim the Gospel. "No believer, no institution of the Church, can avoid the supreme duty of proclaiming the Gospel to all people" (*Redemptoris Missio* 3).

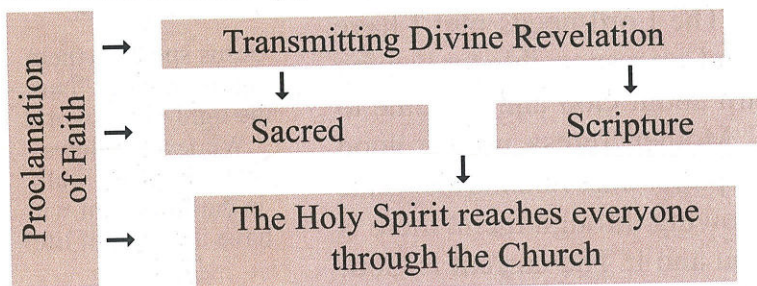
Evangélization Process

The process of evangélization is the proclamation of faith.

It is not enough for a disciple of Jesus to merely preserve the faith and live according to it. It must be professed, firmly witnessed, and spread.

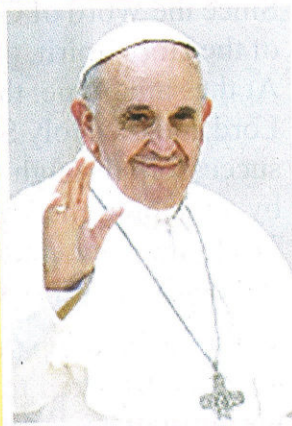
It is through the Holy Spirit that the "living voice of the Gospel" resounds in the Church and, through her, in the world (*Dei Verbum* 8).

The apostles and their successors are messengers of the Gospel. Through them, the transmission of divine revelation continues unceasingly in the Church.



The apostles faithfully fulfilled the mission entrusted to them by Christ.

The mission entrusted by Christ was faithfully fulfilled by the Apostles who, by their oral preaching, by example, and by observances handed on what they had received from the lips of Christ, from living with Him, and from what He did, or what they had learned through the prompting of the Holy Spirit (*Dei Verbum* 7). In the transmission of divine revelation, 'Sacred Scripture' and 'Sacred Tradition' are unitedly moving forward toward the goal.



"I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world."

(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 273)



Discuss and prepare a wall poster on how St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, Bl. Rani Maria, and Bl. Thevarparambil Kunjachan, who were mediators and saints of evangelization, carried out the mission of evangelization.



"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven" (Mt10:32-33).

Since the Word of God was written down by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Sacred Scripture is the Word of God. At the same time, the Word of God entrusted by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit to the apostles is received by their successors through tradition, in its full purity. As a result, by preaching the Word of God in the light of the Spirit of Truth, they are enabled to faithfully observe, explain, and spread the Word of God (*Dei Verbum* 9).

"All must be prepared to confess Christ before men. They must be prepared to make this profession of faith even in the midst of persecutions, which will never be lacking to the Church, in following the way of the cross" (*Lumen Gentium* 42).

"Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation" (CCC 1816).

? Why do we hand on the faith?

We hand on the faith because Jesus commands us

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19).

We must become Jesus to others

A Christian says to himself, 'The Lord needs me! I have been baptized and confirmed and am responsible for helping the people around me to learn about God and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Mother Teresa used a good comparison: "Often you can see power lines running alongside the street. Unless current is flowing through them, there is no light. The power line is you and I! The current is God! We have the power to allow the current to flow through us and thus to generate the light of the world: JESUS or to refuse to be used and, thus, allow the darkness to spread" (Youcat 11).

Evangelization is a prayer-filled process that includes the proclamation of the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christian life-witness, and catechesis.

The Different Levels of Christian Witness

The levels each person must embrace to bear witness in the Christian life.



Jesus asks us:
"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Mt 9:37-38).



Explain the Process of Evangelization?



Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn 8:12).



How does St. Mother Teresa teach us to be Jesus to others?

1. Family

- An individual is born, grows, and is sustained in their Christian life within the family environment.
- The family is the primary platform for faith witness and training.
- The members live according to the Word in the family, the sublime model of Christian life witness.

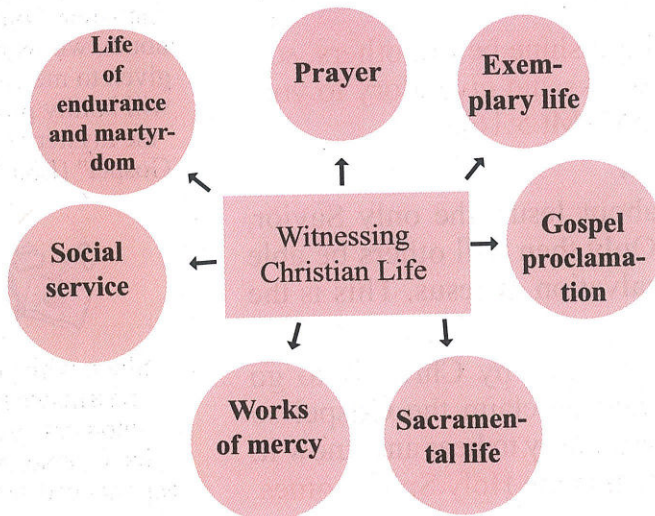
2. Parish

- A parish is the local community of the faithful, formed by the assembly of Christian families.
- We must bear witness to Jesus through our participation in Sunday worship, sacramental life, and spiritual celebrations in the parish.
- We must become witnesses of Jesus by sharing responsibilities with the pastors in the faith formation activities of the parish, charitable works, family fellowship, and devotional group activities.

3. Society

- Understanding that one's talents and status are gifts from God, they should be used for the glory of God and the good of humanity.
- Our fields of service and areas of work should become platforms for bearing witness.
- We must fulfill our responsibilities and civic duties according to Christian values.

The various ways of witnessing the Christian life



“...For this I was born, and for this I came into the world—to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice” (Jn 18:37).



What are the different levels of Christian witness?



Prepare a message that clarifies the Christian witness you give as a family member at home, as a parish member in the organizations of the parish, and as a student in your school, and post it in the class WhatsApp group.

Prayer

Prayer is a Christian witness.

We receive the strength for witnessing Christ and discerning God's will through prayer.

- Living in communion with Jesus enables us to continue His mission on this earth (1 Cor. 1:9).
- Let us pray with thanksgiving so that faith be proclaimed everywhere (Rom. 1:8).
- We gain strength to overcome challenges in spreading the Gospel through prayer (Acts 12:1-5).
- St. Paul reminds us to pray for those who proclaim the Gospel (Col 4:2-3; Eph 6:18-19; Rom 15:30-31).

Exemplary Life

Just as Jesus bore witness to the Father through His life, each of us must bear witness to Jesus through our lives.

The cornerstone of Christian witness is living an exemplary life.

We must lead a righteous life so that, by witnessing our conduct in the family, the Church, and society, others may come to know God.

Through gracious behaviour and dignified interactions, we should be able to bear witness to Jesus.

Wherever we are and whatever work we do, we must work with the awareness that God is blessing others through our lives. We should perceive our work as a ministry and complete it. Only then will we become witnesses of Jesus and instruments of His grace.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16).

Proclamation of the Gospel

We must share with others about Jesus, the only Savior, and the salvation He offers. Only then will others be able to know and experience the salvation of Jesus. This is the duty of every Christian.

The mission entrusted to the Church by Christ is to go throughout the whole world and proclaim the Gospel so that everyone may have the opportunity to hear and know it.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes



What are the different ways of witnessing Christian life?



"Pray for us too, that God may open a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ" (Col 4:3).

Pope Francis teaches: "The supreme honour of Christians lies in presenting Christ in word and deed" (World Mission Day Message, January 6, 2022).



"Pray also for me, that when I open my mouth, words may be given to me so that I will boldly proclaim the mystery of the Gospel" (Eph 6:19).



Share with your classmates the moments you have personally experienced Jesus in your life.

upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The Second Vatican Council also reiterates this teaching: "The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature" (*Ad Gentes* 2).

"With a living awareness of their responsibility for the spread of the Gospel, each one must take part in missionary activity among the nations" (*Ad Gentes* 35).

Hand on the treasure of faith to Future Generations

- By publicly professing faith
- By living it in fraternal sharing
- By celebrating it in liturgy and prayer (CCC 3).

Sacramental Life

The most excellent form of Christian witness is the sacramental life. To be a good Christian means to be a person who leads a sacramental life well. Sacramental life is essential for growing in divine life by continuously sanctifying the various circumstances of our lives (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 60).

We can nurture our Christian life and inspire others in their life of faith through:

- Active participation in the Holy Qurbana, the sacrament of sacraments,
- Frequent reception of the sacraments,
- Sunday celebrations
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Sacramentals

Works of Charity

Acts of charity are deeds carried out in the name of Jesus to help those who are suffering, grieving, destitute, and vulnerable.

Our service becomes Gospel-centered only when we become neighbors to those in need, like the Good Samaritan in the parable.

- Give food to the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Comfort the sick, visit the prisoners.
- Welcome the strangers (Mt 25:35-36).



"But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?

And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ" (Rom 10:14-15, 17).



Based on CCC 3, identify and discuss the various contexts in your life where you can proclaim the Gospel.



How should the treasure of faith be handed down to the future generations?



Conduct a survey in your parish to examine the sincere participation of youth in the sacramental life.

Based on the findings, prepare an action plan to ensure the active involvement of all in their sacramental life.

Through such works of charity, we become witnesses of Jesus. In this way, irrespective of cast and religion, all are given the opportunity to know and experience the love of Jesus.

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being" (*Deus Caritas Est* 25).

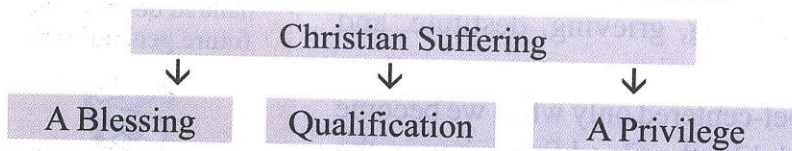
Orphanages, hospitals, educational institutions, homes for the elderly, and centers for persons with disabilities, etc., run under the leadership of the Church are examples of this. We should engage directly in charitable activities at the parish, family, and individual levels.

Social Activities

It is the responsibility of every Christian believer to raise their voices against the unjust and evil structures in society, to stand for the values of the Gospel, and to eradicate the poverty, exploitation, oppression, and marginalization experienced by people. We must strive to creatively engage in the political and cultural spheres, grounded in the Gospel's values, to create a new society. In every situation of life, we should stand for goodness, fight against evil, and thus bear Christian witness through social transformation.

Life of Suffering and Martyrdom

When we begin to live according to the words of Jesus, suffering is inevitable. Suffering gains true meaning when we willingly embrace it out of love for the Messiah.

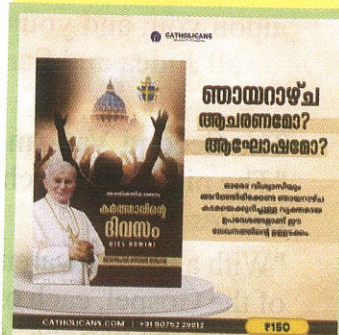


1. Christian suffering is a blessing

"For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well" (Phil 1:29).

2. Christian suffering is a qualification

"As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were



Sunday Celebration

- Sunday is the center of Christian liturgy. Every Sunday is a miniature Easter.
- Those who truly seek the friendship of Jesus will respond as frequently as possible to His personal invitation to the banquet the Holy Eucharist. (Youcat 219).
- "If Sunday is disregarded or abolished, only workdays are left in the week. Man, who was created for joy, degenerates into a workhorse and a mindless consumer. We must learn on earth how to celebrate properly, or else we will not know what to do in heaven" (Youcat 187).
- Heaven is an endless Sunday.
- The Church clearly declares that intentionally missing Sunday Mass without a valid reason is a grave sin (Youcat 365).

considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name" (Acts 5:41).

3. Christian suffering is a privilege

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account" (Mt 5:11).

Suffering, a consequence of original sin, acquires a new meaning; it becomes a participation in the saving work of Jesus (CCC 1521).

Martyrdom is the supreme witness of the Christian faith.

The sufferings and losses we have to endure by accepting and living the Christian faith are part of martyrdom.

The early history of the Church is the history of martyrs. The Church grew and bore fruit through the blood of the martyrs. Like the disciples and other martyrs who rejoiced when they were persecuted for Jesus, we need the grace of the Holy Spirit to remain steadfast in the face of persecution and suffering.

When we are filled with divine power through the Word of God, prayer, and the sacraments, we, too, will receive the strength to bear witness to Jesus.

Why are we on this earth?

- To know God
- To love God
- To do good according to God's will
- To go to heaven

"To be a human being means to come from God and to go to God" (Youcat 1). We are called to conform ourselves to Christ through a life of faith pilgrimage.

At His second coming,
we will be conformed to the likeness of Jesus.

"And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Cor 3:18).

We can joyfully live this glorious Christian life.

I am a witness of Jesus: The message Jesus gives to each one of us who are completing twelve years of faith formation is



Visit the charitable institutions of the Church in your local area, discover their significance and the dedication and divine providence behind them, and present your findings in class. Also, share them on social media.



What is suffering from a Christian perspective?



The hungry nations of the world cry out to the peoples blessed with abundance. And the Church, cut to the quick by this cry, asks each and every man to hear his brother's plea and answer it lovingly.

Pope Paul VI
(Youcat 449).



What are the activities to foster social responsibility among students?

a call to live as His witnesses. "This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful" (Josh 1:8).

Embracing this message in our hearts, we can live as witnesses of Jesus with Christian joy, wherever we are in the world by leading an authentic sacramental life, proclaiming the Gospel, and actively participating in charitable and social service activities.

Each of us must have the awareness that we carry within us the gift of Christian faith, which is for the salvation of humanity.

"In the Holy Spirit, in sincere love; in truthful speech" (2 Cor 6:6-7), with fortitude and apostolic courage, we must strive to radiate the light of life, even to the point of shedding our blood (*Gaudium et Spes* 14).

My convictions



- I am here on earth in order to know and love Jesus, to do good and be one with him, and to go someday to heaven.
- Just as Jesus bore witness to God the Father, it is our duty, through baptism, to bear witness to Jesus.
- The sufferings I endure for my faith are part of Christian martyrdom.



Let us read the Word of God

The Acts of the Apostles
Chapters 25-28



Let us illuminate our hearts

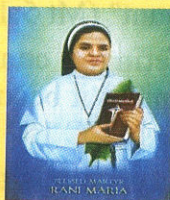
"Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord" (2 Tim 1:8).



My Resolution

In all circumstances of life, through my words and actions, I will be a witness to Jesus.

"Although he was a Son, [Jesus] learned obedience through what he suffered. How much more reason have we sinful creatures to learn obedience" (CCC 2825).



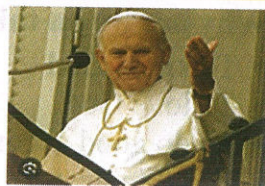
Bl. Rani Maria



Introduce any two saints in the class who, through their life of suffering, became witnesses of Jesus.



Create and share images and brief descriptions (e-poster) depicting the martyrdom of the apostles.



Pope Saint John Paul II states: "The Church of the first millennium was born of the blood of the martyrs."
(*Tertio Millennio Adveniente* 37)



Organize an interview with a person from your parish whom you consider a role model in Christian life, and submit a report on his/her perspectives on the life of faith.