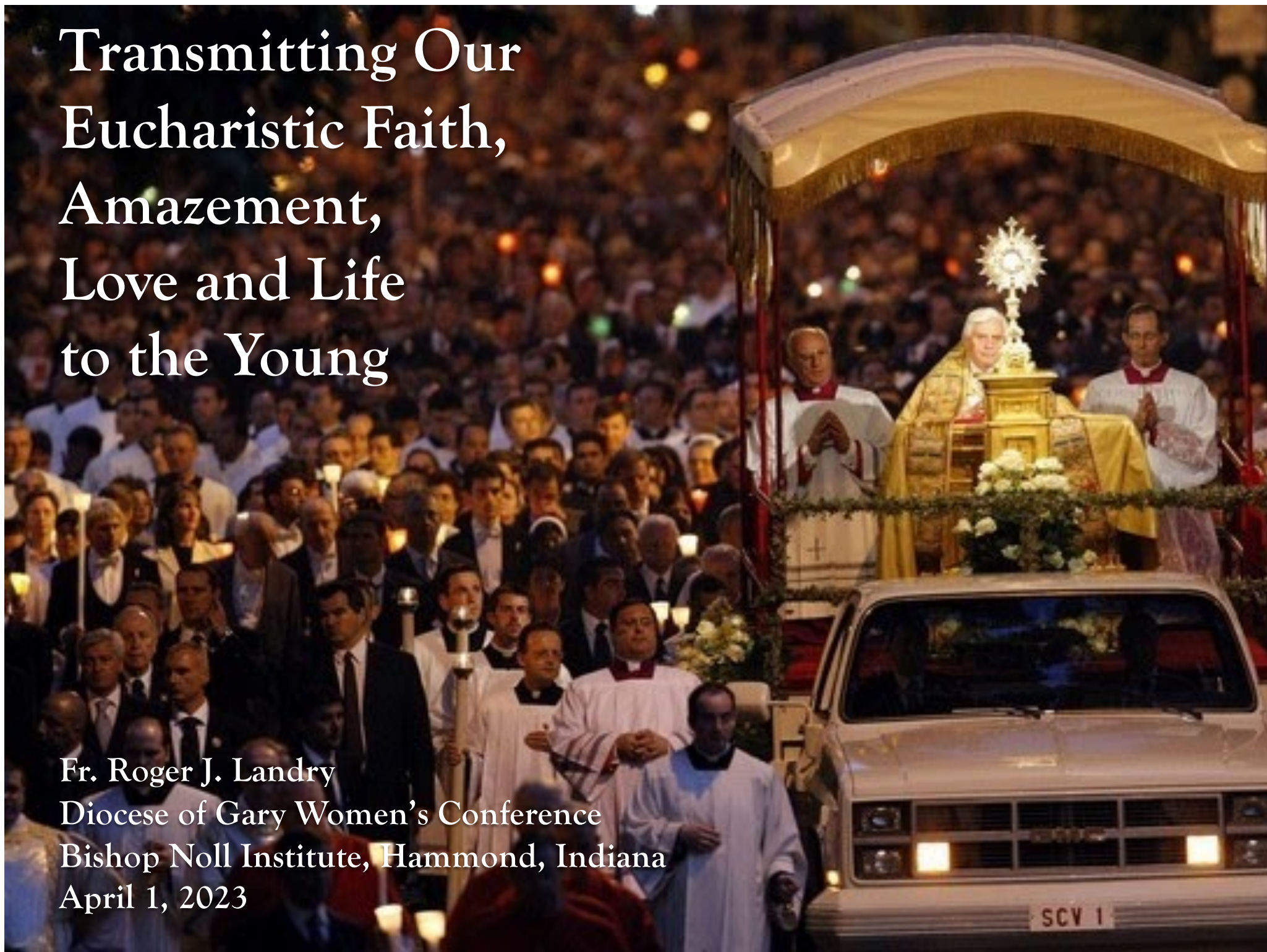


Transmitting Our Eucharistic Faith, Amazement, Love and Life to the Young

Fr. Roger J. Landry
Diocese of Gary Women's Conference
Bishop Noll Institute, Hammond, Indiana
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The Challenges

- In every age, the Church faces the challenge of passing on to others, as of first importance, what we ourselves have received.
- It's a task of the entire Church: clergy, religious, laity, families, dioceses, parishes, schools.
- The Church doesn't have a mission but is a mission.
- In some ages, the transmission is made easier by a supportive culture; at other times, like our own, it is hindered by culture, especially pervasive secularism, scientism, and scandals.



The Challenges

- Today we see contrasting phenomena, shadows and lights:
 - The rise of the “nones” and the disaffiliated.
 - A rapid increase in religious illiteracy.
 - But also a great hunger for God, for stability, for answers to the biggest questions, for the satisfaction of restless hearts.
 - COVID has actually helped many young people recognize the need for God, for the truth, for communion and for charity.
- The challenges we face today, although real, are small compared to what the first Christians encountered!
- In this talk, I'd like to discuss a little bit the art of evangelization and then give a compelling contemporary witness to how we might go about passing on our faith effectively.





Jesus' Method of Evangelization

- Road to Emmaus
 - They're walking dejected away from Jerusalem and all it symbolizes going downhill into the darkness.
 - Jesus meets them and leads them on a liturgy of the word, helping them to see that the crucifixion wasn't a contradiction to their hopes for a Messiah but a confirmation. Their hearts begin to burn.
 - Then he celebrates Mass in their home and they recognize him in the Breaking of Bread.
 - Immediately thereafter they run seven miles up hill, in darkness, to share that they have seen the Risen Lord. The Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Christian Mission are all foreshadowed in this Gospel event.



Jesus' Method of Evangelization

- John Paul II – *Stay with Us, Lord*
 - “Once we have truly met the Risen One by partaking of his body and blood, we cannot keep to ourselves the joy we have experienced. The encounter with Christ, constantly intensified and deepened in the Eucharist, issues in the Church and in every Christian *an urgent summons to testimony and evangelization.*”
 - “Entering into communion with Christ in the memorial of his Pasch also means sensing the duty to be a missionary of the event made present in that rite.”
 - “The dismissal at the end of each Mass is *a charge* given to Christians, inviting them to work for the spread of the Gospel and the imbuing of society with Christian values.”
 - “The Eucharist not only provides the interior strength needed for this mission but is also – in some sense – *its plan*. For the Eucharist is a *mode of being*, which passes from Jesus into each Christian, through whose testimony it is meant to spread throughout society and culture.”



Insights from Pope Benedict

- “To evangelize means: ... to teach the art of living. At the beginning of his public life Jesus says: I have come to evangelize the poor; this means: I have the response to your fundamental question; I will show you the path of life, the path toward happiness—rather: I am that path.”
- “If the art of living remains an unknown, nothing else works.”
- “A large part of today's humanity does not find the Gospel in the permanent evangelization of the Church: That is to say, the convincing response to the question: How to live?”
- “This is why we are searching for, along with permanent and uninterrupted and never to be interrupted evangelization, a new evangelization, capable of being heard by that world that does not find access to "classic" evangelization.”



Insights from Pope Francis

- “The primary reason for evangelizing is the love and salvation of Jesus that we have received, urging us to greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known?”
- “We have a treasure of life and love that cannot deceive, and a message that cannot mislead or disappoint. It ennobles us and is never out of date. This infinite love cures our infinite sadness.”
- It’s impossible to persevere in fervent evangelization “unless we are convinced from personal experience that it is not the same thing to have known Jesus as not to have known him, not the same thing to walk with him as to walk blindly, not the same thing to hear his word as not to know it, and not the same thing to contemplate him, to worship him, to find our peace in him, as not to. ... We know well that with Jesus life becomes richer and that with him it is easier to find meaning in everything. This is why we evangelize.”



Insights from Pope Francis

- In the *Aparecida* document, he and the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean described the process of evangelization:
 - Encounter with Christ
 - Conversion
 - Discipleship
 - Communion
 - Mission



The Importance of Mass

Devoutly and Joyously Celebrated

- Do people really encounter the Lord Jesus at Mass?
- In the reverence of the priest and the faithful?
- In the Word of God and the homily?
- In the way the Eucharistic Prayer is prayed?
- In the way Holy Communion is received?
- In the art and architecture of the Mass?

The Importance of Eucharistic Adoration

- The Eucharist is the same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem and adored by Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds and the wise men.
- Pope Benedict XVI defined the two movements of adoration: *proskinesis* and *ad-oratio*.
- Pope Francis
 - “The moment I most savor the religious experience, however long it may be, is when I am before the tabernacle.”
 - “What is most important is adoration: the whole community together looks at the altar where the sacrifice is celebrated and adores.”
- Just like with Peter, James and John, Jesus asks us to spend time with him, to develop that *friendship* with him that is at the root of the Christian life.
- Prioritizing time with the King of Kings!



The Importance of Eucharistic Processions

- Eucharistic processions are an important part of that Eucharistic apostolate, because through them we give bold and unambiguous testimony that we know that what we are carrying in the monstrance is not a piece of bread, but the Living Bread come down from Heaven, who has given us his Body and Blood for the life of the world (Jn 6:51).
- In Eucharistic processions, we take Jesus Christ out into the world he redeemed. By our joyful witness, devout prayers, and enthusiastic singing, we proclaim Him to be really, truly and substantially among us. And we invite others to join us in following him who is the Way.



The Example of Blessed Carlo Acutis



- Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2016) is the first millennial to be raised to the altars. He is the second co-patron of the Eucharistic Revival.
- After receiving his first Communion at 7, he became thereafter a daily Mass goer until he died of acute promyelocytic leukemia at 15.
- When he would receive Holy Communion, he'd pray in thanksgiving: "Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!"
- At the age of 11, he learned computer programming to build websites to catalogue and promote Eucharistic miracles after learning how effective they were in persuading his friends to come to Mass and adoration. He researched and wrote about them until they grew to a 196-part series. In 2005 it was exhibited in the Vatican during a conference on Eucharistic miracles during the Year of the Eucharist. It now continues to travel the world.

The Example of Blessed Carlo Acutis

- “I think that many people do not fully understand the value of the Mass, because if they recognized the enormous blessing we have in a Lord who gives himself as our food and drink in the Sacred Host, they would go to Mass every day to participate in the fruits of the sacrifice and let go of so many superfluous things.”
- “The more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we become like Jesus”
- In a “Holiness kit” he made for the students he taught in catechism, he wrote: “Try to go every day to Mass and to receive Holy Communion. ... If you can, stay a few minutes every day in Eucharistic adoration in front of the tabernacle where Jesus is really present, and you will see your level of holiness increase considerably.”
- “The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.”





Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read.
Teach what you believe.
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts. You may also follow postings of articles, homilies and teachings on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

You can also subscribe to the podcast of daily homilies, lectures and talks through Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,
Fr. Roger J. Landry



Most Recent Homilies

God's Comfort and the Conversion Required to Receive It, Second Sunday of Advent (B), December 6, 2020

Accepting, Following and Announcing Jesus without Offense, Second Sunday of Advent (EF), December 6, 2020

Walking the Way of the Kingdom Jesus Indicates, First Saturday of Advent, December 5, 2020

Running to Meet Our Light, Strength and Salvation, First Friday of Advent, December 4, 2020

Listening to and Acting on the Long Awaited One's Words, First Thursday of Advent, December 3, 2020

Going Hungry to Meet Christ in a Three-Fold Banquet, First Wednesday of Advent, December 2, 2020

Childlike Eyes to See, First Tuesday of Advent, December 1, 2020

Singing the Song of the Lamb, 34th Wednesday (II), November 25, 2020

Turning to the Lord Who Comes to Judge the Earth, 34th Tuesday (II), November 24, 2020

Following the King and Lamb Wherever He Goes, 34th Monday (II), November 23, 2020

Most Recent Articles

Our Duty and Salvation, The Anchor, November 27, 2020

Living the Reality of the Kingdom of Christ, National Catholic Register, November 19, 2020

The Knights Our Age Needs, The Anchor, November 13, 2020

Remembering Andrew Walther, November 7, 2020

Just a Parish Priest, The Anchor, October 30, 2020

Coming to Know the Original Three-Dimensional Carlo Acutis, The Anchor, October 16, 2020

A Good Shepherd Full of Christian and Priestly Virtues, The Pilot, October 5, 2020

Returning to the Sacrament of Divine Love, The Anchor, September 18, 2020

The Pastoral Malpractice of Liturgical Abuse, The Anchor, September 4, 2020

The Chosen, The Anchor, August 21, 2020

Most Recent Talks

Receiving the Lord Jesus as Mary and Joseph, Advent Day of Recollection for the Leonine Forum, December 5, 2020

Novena in Preparation for the Immaculate Conception, Leonine Forum, November 28 to December 8, 2020

Blessed Michael McGivney and the Call to Holiness, McGivney Festival Young Adult Prayer Vigil, October 31, 2020

Apprenticeship in the Art of Living, Duc in Altum Virtual Schools Summit, October 28-30, 2020

Preaching on Marital Love and Accompanying Couples toward the Full Embrace of the Church's Teaching, Diocese of Gary Clergy Convocation, October 20, 2020

The Divorced and Remarried, Challenges and Triumphs in Pastoral Care, Diocese of Gary Clergy Convocation, October 20, 2020

The Heart of the New Evangelization: Meeting, Knowing and Loving Jesus Back, New Zealand Evangelion's In his Name Virtual Conference, October 10-11, 2020

Christian Anthropology: The Human Person in the Modern World, Leonine Forum Opening Lecture, October 8, 2020

Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, UNSRC Catholic Club, August 27, 2020

Making Better Confessions, Catholic Information Conference, July 24, 2020

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