

# DISCOVERING CHRIST TEACHINGS

-last updated October 30, 2007-

*"We must reflect seriously on how we might carry out a true evangelization today, not just a new evangelization, but often a true first evangelization. People don't know God, they don't know Christ. A new paganism is present, and it is not enough just to maintain the community of believers, although this is very important. I believe that together we must find new ways of bringing the Gospel to today's world by preaching Christ anew and by establishing the faith."*

**Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the German bishops, August 26, 2005**

**1. What's it all about?** What is the meaning of my life? What do I want out of life? The Good News: There is a deeper meaning to life; you are part of bigger plan, and you can discover both! The answers are not found in a program, nor in a system, or way of thinking but in a person, the person Jesus Christ. (See *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 29)

**2. Why Does Jesus Matter?** Addresses inadequate views of Jesus as a good man, great teacher or moral example. Looks at examples of the divine works Jesus did and the claims he made about his divinity. The Lord Jesus compels us to personally decide who he really is.

**3. What Does Jesus Want Us To Know?** In Jesus we glimpse God the Father who loves us and wants us to know and respond to his love. In the words of Benedict XVI, "The source of Christian joy is the certainty of being loved by God, loved personally by our Creator, by the one who holds the entire universe in his hands and loves each one of us and the whole great human family with a passionate and faithful love, a love greater than our infidelities and sins, a love which forgives."

**4. Why Do I Need A Savior?** Why did Jesus live, die and rise again? We need outside help to rescue and restore us! Repentance and the supernatural life of grace. Examines the following truths found in the Weekday Mass Preface #2: *"In love you created us (Purpose); In justice you condemned us (Problem); In mercy you redeemed us (Provision); through Jesus Christ our Lord (Personal response).*

**5. What Does It Mean To Follow Jesus Today?** With an emphasis upon "today," this teaching examines the central theme of Jesus' preaching, "Repent and believe for the Kingdom of God is at hand!" and the life he challenges us to live as His disciples. Illustrated by personal testimony

**6. The Holy Spirit: Who is He? (Retreat Talk)** The Holy Spirit is frequently misunderstood and/or ignored. What do the Scriptures reveal to us about the third person of the Trinity? Through what Christ has done we now live in the age of the Spirit. God has promised his Spirit to every Christian.

## **7. Power to be children of God: What Does The Holy Spirit Do? (Retreat Talk)**

The Holy Spirit given in Baptism and Confirmation gives us power to live the Christian life. However, many of us do not actually experience this life-changing grace. As adults we are each called to actualize this grace by personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord.

## **8 How can I grow in my relationship with the Lord Jesus? Being a Catholic Disciple.**

Overview of four components of daily Christian living: 1) sacraments, 2) prayer & Scripture, 3) community, and 4) service & evangelization. *Emphasizes Prayer and Scripture*

## **9. Believing and Belonging: Why do we need the Church?**

We are not made to be alone, but with one another. When we look at Scripture it becomes clear that, as the Catechism teaches (CCC # 781), God has "willed to make men holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge him and serve him in holiness." Why do we need the Church? What are obstacles to belonging to the Church? Getting Practical: It all begins with Baptism...Sunday worship together...Becoming part of a small group... We're not perfect... *Emphasizes Sac's, service and Community.*