



COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel* DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Ambassadors for Christ -Sharing Christ's Love

Do people feel at home when they arrive at your parish? On any given Sunday at any given parish, there are new people walking through our doors for the first time. What you say or do can have a profound impact on whether these individuals experience God's love, feel accepted and feel a sense of belonging.

To represent Christ, we are called to be welcoming! This means letting people know they are loved and that our Church needs them. God loves everyone and God's house is for everyone.

Especially in our world today, where so many have experienced broken families and trauma of some kind, the Church is where we can all experience peace, kindness and hope. Pope Francis says our churches should be like field hospitals, healing the wounds that have scarred our lives. This takes hospitality.

The same is true in our day to day lives. Let us be inviting and welcoming with all we encounter. If you would invite someone to a meal, a sporting event or a concert, why not invite someone to Mass or another church related event. You could help change a life for the better.

Sharing our faith is not about inserting quotes from the catechism into our casual conversations. It is about sharing how God's love has made our lives better. It's about witnessing the faith through our kindness, joy and compassion. It's about letting people see the light that shines from a life with Christ. Sharing the gifts of Holy Spirit, such as forgiveness, humility, wisdom and understanding. It's about being courageous... recognizing that it's God who truly moves the hearts of people. We are his Ambassadors attempting our best and letting God do the rest!