

Week #2: On Ramps

1. POPE FRANCIS'S AND ARCHBISHOP VIGNERON'S VISION FOR US

- Becoming a band of joyful missionary disciples.
- Accurately see what God created the Church to be, created us to be: individually and as a parish.
- The terms we review are a means to assist us with understanding and clarifying the correct meaning, which are often misunderstood by most Catholics.

2. ARCHBISHOP'S HOPE FOR THE SYNOD

- It would "restore the DNA" of the Church. Why? What would that mean?
- Define DNA.
- Church is spiritually coded to reproduce.
- Archbishop's plan is really God's plan: to restore what has become sick.

3. EACH ON RAMP IS DEFINED BY A MUTATED UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD AND A HEALTHY UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD

- Faith Mutation:** opinion, one interpretation of reality, optional, an add-on, private. **Healthy:** truth, *the* interpretation of reality, essential, given to be shared.
- Church Mutation:** institution, our own doing, the hierarchy/ordained ("the Church"). **Healthy:** organism, God's initiative/called (*qahal*), the people of God.
- Parish Mutation:** the building where I happen to go to Mass, assimilated. **Healthy:** a community of exiles on a journey, encouraging each other along the way while getting nourished with the food necessary, trying to bring as many people along with us; counter-cultural. (Diognetus)

- Laity Mutation:** silent spectators, "not my job," consumer, called to less. **Healthy:** fully participating, the ones primarily responsible for evangelization, called to holiness.
- Conversion Mutation:** what happens in other peoples' lives (e.g, when the Protestant comes to RCIA, when the pagan becomes Christian); "I'm Catholic because I grew up Catholic, no decision is necessary and if my parents weren't Catholic, I probably wouldn't be either"; it's once and done. **Healthy:** the only way to become a Christian (can't because parents were or even just because you were baptized). I must make a decision to become a disciple of Jesus. Conversion is ongoing.
- Missionary disciple Mutation:** that's what Missionary Orders like the Jesuits do in foreign countries. **Healthy:** the task entrusted to and the identity conferred on every person at baptism, the mission entrusted to every person at every Mass (*ite missa est*, "now entering mission territory"); what we are all supposed to do until we get home.

"The Church thinks the primary work of mission belongs to the lay faithful. The lay faithful thinks the primary work of mission belongs to the ordained."
~Unknown

"God wants His world back and it's our honor to help Him accomplish that." ~Archbishop Vigneron

QUOTE: *To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body. As the soul is present in every part of the body, while remaining distinct from it, so Christians are found in all the cities of the world, but cannot be identified with the world. As the visible body contains the invisible soul, so Christians are seen living in the world, but their religious life remains unseen.* From a letter to Diognetus

QUESTIONS for reflection/discussion:

- Which term (on ramp) and explanation did I find more challenging and why?
- How do I live out my life as a missionary disciple on a daily basis?
- Do I find the quotes from the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, 13, on page 11, in conflict with how I live in this country?
- What does a healthy Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish look like?

