



ACTS 1:1-11



You will be My Witnesses

In every age God raises up saints who best exemplify the virtues so needed in their day.

CHECK OUT WHAT CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ABOUT THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CCC 659-664

WHAT CAN CAUSE A SUCCESSFUL TEAM TO START PLAYING POORLY?

WHAT STEPS DOES A GOOD COACH OR MANAGER TAKE IF HIS TEAM IS PLAYING POORLY?

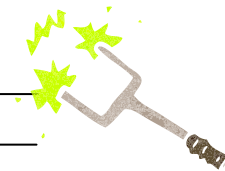


WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ "BE MY WITNESS" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



The Greek word for Witness is similar to what other word? _____

How do you respond to the story of the Chinese man tortured for his faith, who eventually lost his faith when he moved to America?



The Church needs witnesses in every age!

In 33AD when it looked like everything was over, what happened to the Church? Who were the key players Fr Mike mentioned?



500 years later, the Church grew big and fat and comfortable. It became corrupt and fell into disrepair. Who did God raise up to renew the Church?

These saints said, "if Jesus is who He says He is, then I am who _____.
I want to be His _____, I want to _____ like Him and _____ like Him!"

400-500 years later again, the Church grew soft and comfortable. It fell into disrepair again. Who did God raise up to renew the Church in that time?



These saints said didn't just want to believe in Jesus, they wanted to b_____ to Him, live like Him and _____.

500 years later again, the Church fell into disrepair again. Who did God raise up to renew the Church in that time?



A witness is someone with the courage to say: "I'm not going to be like everyone else, I'm going to be like _____".

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

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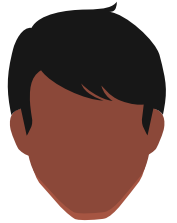
500 years later again, the Church is comfortable, and bloated the Church is falling into disrepair again. What will God do?



This is the Age of the M_____, of the men and women with the courage and the f_____ to look like Jesus and to live like Jesus.

Those people will be renewed by Jesus and they will _____ the Church. The _____ Church will _____ the world!

How do you feel about this mission? Do you see you as having a role to play?



Now Read Acts 1:1-11



Can you imagine the rollercoaster journey the Apostles were on from Jesus' passion and death, to His resurrection, then His Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? It was never crystal clear to them what was coming next: they didn't get a detailed plan - just a mission.

And what a mission it was! To spread the Good News to the far ends of the earth! Some task for such a small group, and yet they achieved it, through the power of the Holy Spirit working within them, filling them with courage, to go and be witnesses: to live like Jesus, to look like Jesus, to love like Jesus so that others could encounter Jesus in and through them.

That's the same mission we have today as Christians. If I was accused of being a follower of Christ, would there be enough evidence to convict me? Christians have the greatest news the world has ever known, and the exact news that needs to be shared with those who are depressed, lonely, struggling, frustrated, suffering, grieving - and yet if we don't share it, who will? We don't have to worry about the how: the Holy Spirit will provide the opportunities and the words: God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called!



MISSION!

YOU WILL BE PRESENTED WITH OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK TO BE A JOYFUL WITNESS TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH: HOW WILL YOU USE THEM? WILL YOU OFFER TO PRAY FOR OR WITH SOMEONE? WILL YOU MENTION THE NAME OF JESUS TO THEM? WILL YOU SERVE HUMBLY AND CHEERFULLY? WILL YOU PUT OTHERS BEFORE YOURSELF?



PRAYER TIME!

Lord, you have asked me to be a witness to you in this world. No one else has the same set of circumstances and people in their lives as I do. No one else can reach people in the same way I can. Send your Holy Spirit to guide and direct my thoughts, words, actions and encounters this week. Amen!



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON BEING A WITNESS TO CHRIST



- Hillsong: To the Ends of the Earth
- Casting Crowns: Glorious Day
- Casting Crowns: Until the Whole World Hears
- Leeland: Follow You
- Fee: Send me out
- Kari Jobe: We Are
- Bethel Music: For the Sake of the World
- Chris McClarney: Send Me

Click the links for the YouTube videos to listen to some suggestions!



Why the Ascension Matters (Bishop Barron)



The Ascension (Catholic Kids Media)



In every age God raises up saints who best exemplify the virtues so needed in their day.

IN FR MIKE'S "BE MY WITNESS" TALK, HE MENTIONS THE FOLLOWING SAINTS WHO RENEWED THE CHURCH IN THEIR GENERATION. CHOOSE ONE TO RESEARCH.



AUGUSTINE



BENEDICT



SCHOLASTICA



FRANCIS



DOMINIC



CLARE



CHARLES
BORROMEO



CATHERINE
OF SIENA



JOHN OF THE
CROSS



TERESA OF AVILA

NAME: _____

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: _____ YEAR OF BIRTH: _____

YEAR OF DEATH: _____ FEASTDAY: _____

PATRON SAINT OF: _____

CHALLENGES TO THE CHURCH AT THAT TIME: _____

HOW THEY RENEWED THE CHURCH: _____

FAMOUS QUOTE(S): _____

MY RESPONSE TO THIS SAINT'S LIFE: _____

**NOW RESEARCH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SAINTS WHO LIVED CLOSER TO OUR TIMES:
HOW DID THEY LOOK LIKE JESUS, LIVE LIKE JESUS AND RENEW THE WORLD AROUND THEM?**



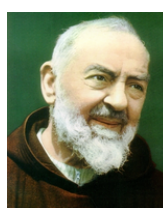
PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI



MAXIMILIAN KOLBE



JOHN PAUL II



PADRE PIO



MOTHER TERESA



GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA



CARLO ACUTIS

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