

## And They Will Know God

By Samantha Court

Human beings have the tendency to notice each other. Hand-in-hand comes the tendency to want to be noticed. The question is, what do you notice in other people, and what do other people notice in you? We are all made in the image and likeness of God; we are icons of our Lord, and our mission here on earth is simple: to achieve eternal life in Heaven not just for ourselves, but for others as well. Our mission of evangelization is a call to all Catholics. What we see in others is Christ Himself, no matter how broken or fallen the person is. What others see in us depends upon ourselves. Our every word, action, and prayer is an act of evangelism, and through evangelism, we enlighten souls and open minds.

Even a single word can carry an unimaginable weight. People frequently assume negative words have greater impact than positive words, but the Bible and our Faith have taught us the opposite. The devil is constantly whispering in our ears, telling us falsehoods and lies. Those negative words are temptation. But what about the saints, who have conquered that temptation and have reached eternal life with God? They have followed God's words, His assurance and love, and have conquered mortal death numerous times.

Like our Lord, we too must evangelize through our lips and the teachings of the Church. If we speak negatively, we bring people down instead of raising them up, whereas an air of positivity carries a different effect. Saint Philip Neri once said, "The true way to advance in holy virtues, is to preserve a holy cheerfulness." This doesn't mean to be gluttonous in our ways and over-indulge ourselves. It means that we must retain a positive, Catholic view of the world around us, a view of hope instead of despair, a view of Christ instead of Satan. This holy view must, in all ways, affect our every word. We should never shy from our Faith, or fear that what we say will carry deadly consequences for ourselves. The opportunity to evangelize is the opportunity to save a soul, a life.

Our words aren't the only way to spread the Gospel. Our actions have as much impact as our words. In the Bible, we are told, "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). These words should prompt us to think before we do and ask ourselves, "Would God be pleased with my actions?" Here on earth, we are called to bring others into the flock of Christ. Holding the door open for an elder, or smiling at a crying child, are hardly noticeable in the tumultuous world we live in today, but they may mean more to the old woman or child than they mean to anyone else. A quotation from Dr. Seuss reminds us of this: "To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world." When others see Christ through our actions, we are drawing them closer to God. We are showing them the mercy and love he has for us by treating them with love as well. Saint Theresa once said, "Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing." If we allow ourselves to open our hearts to Christ, He will work His wondrous ways through us, and we will be able to touch the souls of all we meet.

One other form of evangelism is prayer. Prayer can be spoken, but often it is silent, a conversation with our Lord for only ourselves and God to hear. Prayer can be thanking God for the food before us or asking His forgiveness when we have wronged another. Even non-Catholics will be thankful

for their food and sorry for their sins. It is our duty to introduce them to the Faith through prayer and worship. Simply bringing an atheist friend to Church one day is a form of evangelism, for the entire Mass is a beautiful prayer with God. Prayer carries more weight than our actions and words combined, for it is the personal and intimate conversation with God, and the words exchanged are great enough to move mountains.

Our words, our actions, and prayer are only three of the many ways to bring about world-wide evangelization. So let us evangelize with every fiber of our being, so that “those who know us but do not know God, will come to know God because they know us.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> anonymous