

CONFIRMATION SESSION: NATIONS

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Picture this: It is Monday, the start of another week. You arrive at the office early in the morning and walk to the elevator. You press the button for the elevator, get in when the doors open, press the button for your floor, and prepare for the quick ride. Right before the doors close, the CEO of your company gets into the elevator. You say, “good morning” and he or she proceeds to ask you, “So, how is everything going?” This is perhaps your only opportunity to spend 30 seconds alone with the CEO. What do you say? Your response is called an “elevator speech.” It is a quick summary or overview of what you do, what you are currently doing, or, even, what you have done in the past. It is short and impactful. While an elevator speech is a common practice in the business world, it can be applied to our spirituality as well. If someone came up to you today and asked you, “Why are you Catholic?” or “Why are you a follower of Christ?” how would you respond?

The process of sharing the Good News is called “evangelization.” Sometimes we may only have 30 seconds to share the Gospel and other times we may have longer. Regardless of the amount of time we have, we are called to live out the “great commission,” which is to proclaim the Gospel to every person we meet. We must be ready to tell people that God loves us and sent His only Son to save us from sin and death. This is the message we are sent forth to share with the world.

To share the Good News, however, we must have had an encounter with Christ. We have to know that He loves us and experience His love firsthand before we can share it with others. Once we have an encounter with Christ, we are called to share His love. We share the Gospel in two ways: through our lives (our actions, how we live, what we do and what we fail to do, etc.) and through our testimony.

Our testimony is the story of what God has done in our life. It includes three simple parts: what our life was like before Christ, what happened the moment we encountered Christ for the first time, and the change that happened in our life after that encounter. By sharing our testimony, we lead others to Christ. Whether we have 30 seconds or 30 minutes with a person, we are called to share our testimony with all those we meet. This is the purpose of evangelization. This is our purpose.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Why is it important to share the Gospel message?
2. What is your testimony? (A testimony includes three parts: who you were before you met Christ, what happened the moment you encountered Christ, and how your life is different after the encounter.)
3. How can you more boldly proclaim the Gospel message and share your testimony with others?