



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! Each year as September 11 arrives, I not only remember that infamous day in 2001, but I'm startled at the growing number of people who do not remember. Their age and number rise again this year as we mark this 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary---those 25+ years of age have no memory. Thus, the importance of teaching, educating and being mindful of those around us who just don't know.

For many years, Beloit College in Illinois produced a Mindset List for faculty and staff which shared the context, the world from which the incoming freshman came. For instance, many of them never heard a dial-tone or busy-signal; all of them never knew life without a cell phone. That mindset list proved helpful in teaching, it helped me in my work at Immaculata and I think it could be helpful in the parish.

Since his arrival back in Philly, Archbishop Pérez has asked every Catholic and every parish to work with him to create a culture of missionary disciples. This is a strong call to all of us to undergo a conversion of mind, heart and behavior: to move out of the "maintenance" mindset, which tends toward spiritual complacency, cultural Catholicism and a business as usual attitude, and into an apostolic mission mindset which is fully awake to the reality that society has lost its sense of God and is in a dire situation.

This Apostolic Mission Mindset is very different from cultural Catholicism that most of us knew, but it brings us to the very heart of the Gospel for which each of us were made: Communion with God.

So what's the difference between Maintenance to Apostolic Mindset? Here's some examples. I invite you to note, embrace, be mindful of and live the difference this week. I'll try to do the same.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

**Maintenance Mindset**

When you arrive at the parish social after Mass on Sunday, you grab your cup of coffee, move over to the people you know and talk with them the whole time.

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You have a son or daughter who does not go to Mass on Sunday. So, you regularly say to them, "You should be going to church."

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At work or in social settings, you never talk about God, faith or spiritual things because your faith is private. You also don't want to make anyone uncomfortable.

**Mission Mindset**

When you arrive at the parish social after Mass on Sunday, as you walk into the room, you look around for a new face or someone who has no one to talk to and you walk over to them, introduce yourself and begin a conversation.

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You have a son or daughter that does not go to Mass on Sunday. So, you make an extra effort to build a healthy, trusting relationship with him or her. You refrain from nagging them about going to Mass, but might invite them to join you for Mass on occasion. You pray and sacrifice for them regularly, demonstrate integrity by ensuring that your behavior matches what you say you believe, and look for opportunities to share your own experiences of God when appropriate.

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At work or in social settings, you engage with people on non-religious topics that are of interest to everyone present. You are also vigilant for openings when you might mention God, faith or spiritual things in a spirit of sharing your personal experience. In general, the people around you know that you are a Catholic, that you have a relationship with God and they would be comfortable coming to talk with you about those things if they wanted to.