
MAKE CHURCH MATTER

What Doesn't make Disciples

Just Showing Up

Attendance at church is no measurement of discipleship. However impressive our Mass count, it doesn't mean we're making disciples.

Obeying Rules/Fulfilling Obligations

Obsession with religious rules and liturgical rubrics, or policing your pastor to make sure he is as obsessive-compulsive as you are about them, won't make disciples, just Pharisees.

In fact, an exclusive or excessive focus on the fulfilment of rules and obligations cultivates a deep sense of consumerism. Rule focused churchpeople form the impression that they've done *their* part; now you owe them. When parishioners say to you, "I've been a good Catholic all my life", it is often a preamble to what you owe them as a result of their rule keeping.

Hanging around Church

You don't become more like Jesus simply hosting or participating in lots of church programs. There were plenty of church people at Nativity who spent all their time at church and whose characters were never transformed into Christ's character. Not incidentally, their personal and family lives were oftentimes deeply dysfunctional.

Trading Money for Influence

Usually you think of contributors as supporters, but we have seen people use money to try to get us to do things they want us to do or stop doing things they want us to stop doing. Bribery is not discipleship and it's not stewardship either.

Taken from: *Rebuilt* by Fr. Michael White & Tom Corcoran