

MISSION MOMENTS

. . . Waiting On The World To Change (50 seconds)

TIRED OF WAITING ON THE WORLD TO CHANGE? WE WAIT IN LINE AT THE CHECK OUT AT ACME OR PATHMARK OR WHATEVER STORE WE HAPPEN TO SHOP IN. WE WAIT TO SEE THE DOCTOR, THE DENTIST, THE DERMATOLOGIST, AND THE LIST GOES ON. YET REGARDLESS OF OUR AGE WE SEEM NEVER QUITE CONTENT WITH IT - - - PART OF GROWING UP IS PLAYING THE WAITING GAME. AT FIVE, YOU WAIT AND WIGGLE THAT FIRST TOOTH 'TIL IT FALLS OUT. AT NINE, IT'S THE MERE THOUGHT OF DOUBLE DIGITS. AT TWELVE, AHFFF TO BE A TEEN-AGER. AT FIFTEEN, THE APPEAL OF THE STEERING WHEEL. AT TWENTY-ONE - THE WAIT IS JUST ABOUT OVER - - - FOR AS IF BY MAGIC WE BECOME AN ADULT AND THEN MANY OF US WAIT TO GET MARRIED, BUY A HOUSE, RAISE A FAMILY, WE WAIT . . . AND WE WAIT AND WE WAIT SOME MORE. . . TIME IS MUCH TOO PRECIOUS FOR ALL THIS WAITING. WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE IN THE MOMENT - - - THE MISSION MOMENT, IF YOU WILL. WE THE PEOPLE GATHERED HERE TODAY AT HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO STOP WAITING AND IN SO DOING CHANGE THE WORLD. FOR IF INDEED WE LET OUR MISSION AND CORE VALUES BE THE SHINING LIGHTS THAT GUIDE OUR JOURNEY THE WORLD WILL BE A BETTER PLACE.

THROUGH MISSION MOMENTS WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE ONE PERSON AT A TIME. LISTEN AS I SHARE A STORY OF ONE YOUNG MAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A STARFISH ONE BY ONE.

Once upon a time, a wise woman used to go to the ocean to do her writing. She had a habit of walking on the beach before she began her work. One day, as she was walking along the shore, she looked down the beach and saw a figure moving like a dancer. She smiled at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, she walked faster to catch up. As she got closer, she noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean. She came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean." "I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" To this, the young man

replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die." Upon hearing this, the wise woman commented, "But, young man, do you not realize the beach stretches miles and miles and starfish are all along every mile. You can't possibly make a difference!" At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "*It made a difference for that one.*"

HOW DO WE LEARN TO WEAVE THE MISSION INTO THE RHYTHM OF OUR EVERY DAY LIKE THE YOUNG MAN WHO TOUCHED THE LIFE OF EACH STARFISH? NOT TEXT IN THE MESSE DOCUMENT NOR WORDS HANGING ON BANNERS ON FRANKFORD AVENUE, WE BREATHE LIFE INTO THE MISSION THROUGH INTERACTIONS WITH PEOPLE. I AM A FIRM BELIEVER OF ACTIONS SPEAKING LOUDER THAN WORDS. THE WORDS ARE EASY TO SAY, "I LIVE THE MISSION". BUT TODAY, AT THIS MOMENT, I URGE EACH OF US TO REFLECT UPON OUR DAILY ACTIONS NOT ONLY HERE AT HOLY FAMILY BUT AT HOME, ON THE SOCCER FIELD, IN THE HOSPITAL, AT THE OFFICE, WHEREVER WE GO. WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? HOW CAN I LIVE MY LIFE THROUGH MISSION MOMENTS?

The phone call, the e-mail, the card, the visit, the rhododendron, the foregoing of one's vacation, it is the support and comfort of FAMILY after the death of a loved one or whenever you are needed to show you care.

The willingness to listen not just talk . . . a give and take . . . an openness to differences, it is your time that is needed to show RESPECT.

Doing the right thing even if no one is looking . . . The measure of integrity is evident in the concrete particulars of our everyday living, moment by moment as we make choices about which values to put into practice . . . the mistake on a bill in your favor, too much change from the cashier.

Taking the ordinary . . . the advising appointment, the school meeting, the lesson, the presentation, the game, the MASS, even the budget and transforming it into something extraordinary - - - through SERVICE because this is our RESPONSIBILITY.

The heartbeat of what we do here at Holy Family, LEARNING, a complex, highly interactive cognitive process that goes hand-in-hand with teaching, the heart of our matter. As teachers we must think carefully and critically about what we do and say in the daily interactions with our students in the classroom as well as what we do not do or do not say. Through listening, encouraging, praising, helping, suggesting, modeling, documenting, and empowering we bring LEARNING to life.

For with each mission moment the VISION of God's Kingdom on earth becomes clearer.
IN CLOSING, TENOR VOTIS, WE ARE BOUND BY OUR RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH
EACH AND EVERY MISSION MOMENT TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

. . . We Can Change the World . . . (1:30 seconds)