

Thinking linearly: one step at a time

By Linda Weaver

Recently, Father Frank DeSiano (drafter of "Go and Make Disciples") looked at me and said, "My, you think very linearly!"

He made this comment after one of my presentations at the recent Evangelization Institute, where I explained to the participants how I approach my evangelization projects. I start by asking myself: What do I want to do for God? Then, I think very simply.

Let me illustrate: Every Wednesday for five years now, I've served Mass at St. Peter's in the Loop. It is a half hour of peace in my otherwise hectic week. About three years ago, I was standing at the altar looking out at the pews and thought, "This church has no parishioners. It exists to serve the workers in the Loop. It has great programs, but if the workers don't know about it, how can it help them?" I asked myself, "How can I get the workers to know about St. Peter's?" Then I thought, "I need a pool of Catholics."

A light bulb went on. I attended Notre Dame Law School! I went home and looked up the Web site for the Notre Dame Club of Chicago. After 16 years of never having joined an alumni club, I joined. The next week I volunteered for its Networking Breakfasts in the basement of St. Peter's, and for the last three years we have brought anywhere from 60 to 200 ND alums per month through the doors of St. Peter's for various networking functions—mostly at 7:30 a.m.!

Now, I'm the Chair of Networking for Chicago, and we have a Business Network, a Construction & Real Estate Network, a regional network and we are starting a Non-Profit network. We focus on living our faith

not just on Sundays, but also during the week as we help each other, as well as those who cannot help themselves.

My greatest pleasure is walking through an event and overhearing one alum say to another, "I never knew this church existed." My objective was small: show them the Way. As an evangelizer, that is my goal. This Fall, we add a new element to our program: "Ultimate Networking: Making the right connections for this life and the next."

We kick off the program when Father Robert Barron brings Mission Chicago to St. Peter's on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the 11:40 a.m. Mass, followed by a talk on business and faith at 12:15 in the St. Clare Auditorium.

For more on Mission Chicago, see Page 25.

The Notre Dame Club of Chicago invites all ND alumni, friends, family and fans to mark their calendars and join us for this event. Even if you can't attend on Nov. 7, please join me for a mid-week break to rest and refocus any Wednesday at the 11:40 a.m. Mass at St. Peter's in the Loop, 110

W. Madison St.)

So what do you want to do for God? You don't have to have a big goal. You don't need a detailed plan before you start. Just think one step at a time, with your heart focused on God and the ultimate goal. What are you waiting for? Go forth and make disciples! Don't worry about what might stop you. Just GO! Trust in the Spirit to help and guide you. Above all, have faith—in yourself and in God.

Weaver, a member of Holy Name Cathedral Parish, is a member of the Committee for Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

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