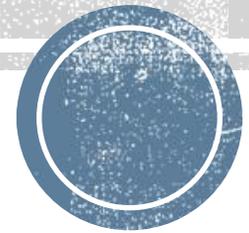


# SHARING YOUR STORY



“With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us.”

- 1 Thessalonians 2:8



“Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”

- Deus Caritas Est, Pope Benedict XVI



# EVERYONE HAS A STORY!

- You have a story
- Your story is part of the whole story of Salvation
- Your story is important
- Discovering your story
  - Takes prayer and reflection
  - Your story is uniquely yours
    - Your story doesn't need to be a big conversion moment. It may be a slow progression or season
  - Being prepared is different from having a scripted response
  - Be yourself



“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.”

- 1 John 1:1-4



“My mouth shall proclaim your just deeds, day after day your acts of deliverance, though I cannot number them all. I will speak of the mighty works of the Lord; O GOD, I will tell of your singular justice. God, you have taught me from my youth; to this day I proclaim your wondrous deeds. Now that I am old and gray, do not forsake me, God, That I may proclaim your might to all generations yet to come, Your power”

- Psalm 71:15-18



# WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE OUR STORIES

- We are called to share our stories
  - Jesus asks us to (Luke 8:38-39)
- Stories are evangelistic
- Your story may be the first Gospel someone truly hears
- “Peter and John, however, said to them in reply, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God for us to obey you rather than God, you be the judges. It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard.’” - Acts 4:19-20



“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”

- 1 Peter 3:15



“When they take you before synagogues and before rulers and authorities, do not worry about how or what your defense will be or about what you are to say. For the holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you should say.” - Luke 12:11-12



“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

- Pope Paul VI (EN 41)

