

The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic

Chapter 1: Incredible Possibilities (Introduction)

- The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic are *prayer, study, generosity, and evangelization*.
- 6.4 percent of registered parishioners contribute 80 percent of the volunteer hours in a parish; 6.8 percent of registered parishioners donate 80 percent of financial contributions. These parishioners are the 7%.
- Imagine if we doubled or tripled the number of Dynamic Catholics: the Catholic Church could change the world.
- What if parishes increased the number of Dynamic Catholics by one percentage point a year?
- Continuous improvement is a long-term approach that seeks to achieve small, incremental changes.
- Great things have to be sought with intentionality.

Chapter 2: Are you Spiritually Healthy? (Prayer)

- The most dominant quality among Dynamic Catholics is a daily routine of prayer.
- Dynamic Catholics usually begin their days with prayer and often spend time in the classroom of silence.
- Most Catholics have never been taught how to develop a daily routine of prayer.
- The Prayer Process is a seven-step tool designed to help us develop a routine of prayer. The seven steps: 1) Gratitude, 2) Awareness, 3) Significant Moments, 4) Peace, 5) Freedom, 6) Others, 7) the Our Father.

Chapter 3: The Genius of Catholicism (Study)

- Highly engaged Catholics are continuous learners.
- God has an incredible dream for each and every one of us. He wants you to become the-best-version-of-yourself. Everything makes sense in relation to this one idea.
- Relativism is the theory that there are no absolute truths, but rather that all truth is relative. If humanity is to make any progress in the coming century, moral relativism must come to an end.
- People deserve answers to their questions, especially those surrounding the faith.
- How would your parish be different one year from now if every parishioner read five pages of a great Catholic book each day? It's a game changer—simple, practical, powerful, transformative.

Chapter 4: The Happiest People I Know (Generosity)

- Dynamic Catholics live in a state of gratitude. They have an overwhelming sense that their lives have been blessed.
- God is generous, and generosity is at the heart of the Christian life. As a result, the happiest people are often the most generous people.

See Over

- The world draws us into a conversation about all that we don't have, but God invites us into a conversation about all that we do have.
- Dynamic Catholics have not just a spirit of generosity, but a spirituality of generosity that reaches deep into every corner of their lives.

Chapter 5: Changing the World (Evangelization)

- The world is the way it is today because of human behavior. The world is constantly changing for better or for worse. What makes it better or worse tomorrow? The way we live our lives.
- Imagine all of the misery that could be avoided if we all just lived by the life-giving wisdom found in the Ten Commandments.
- The 3 principles of living a good life: 1) you are here to become the-best-version-of-yourself; 2) virtue is the ultimate organizing principle; and 3) it is better to live with self-control than without it.
- God wants our parishes to help people of all ages build a spiritual life so that through our regular spiritual routines he can build and refine us in his image.
- Friendship is the most natural and effective way to share the faith with others.
- Highly engaged Catholics feel good about being Catholic. They are inspired Catholics.
- Even among highly engaged Catholics, Evangelization is the weakest link in the chain.
- Try to do one thing each week to share the faith with someone who crosses your path.
- The 6 most common ways a Dynamic Catholic evangelizes: 1) sharing books and CDs; 2) inviting people to Catholic events; 3) bringing a godly perspective to conversations; 4) learning the Church's teachings and sharing them in a variety of circumstances; 5) helping others discover answers to questions about the faith; and 6) demonstrating the love of God through faithful and generous friendship.

Chapter 6: A New Level of Thinking (Conclusion)

- The way forward to a vibrant and relevant future requires a rigorous honesty about our strengths and weaknesses, and a willingness to change and grow. The starting point of a rigorous self-examination is an assessment of where we are today.
- If business continues as usual, the tide will continue to go out on Catholicism in America.
- What would it take to make your parish the church in town that everyone is curious about? We need a new level of thinking.
- The Catholic Church in America needs a game changer. This implicitly means that most Catholics also need a game changer for their individual spirituality.
- Imagine what would happen if we intentionally organized everything we do in the Church around the four signs.
- Are you ready to let Jesus take you to the next level in your spiritual life? If we give ourselves generously to the present, God will transform us, and in turn he will use us not only to transform our parishes and the Church, but to change the world.