

# Five Ways to Show Catholic Courage at Work

## Objective:

Have you invited Jesus to go to work with you? Or did you leave Him at home or even worse in your car in the parking lot? Are you afraid to let people know you are a Catholic Christian follower? I know, a lot of questions to think about. Our goal, our call is to be Christian 24/7 365 days of the year. And that includes work. If the final destination that we as Christians hope to attain is Heaven and not just the corner office, join us this Friday as we explore ways to show Catholic courage at Work.

To find ways to let our co-workers know we are a believer in Jesus. That we work at our Faith. And we have a relationship with God.

1. Start off with actions not words. Some things to consider:
  - a. Put a picture of Jesus in your workspace.
  - b. Put a statue of Mary on your desk.
  - c. Or have a Bible on your desk.
  - d. Make the sign of the Cross.
  - e. Say a blessing over your lunch in front of others.
2. Engage your co-workers in prayer.
  - a. Listen to their needs and tell them you will pray for them and their needs.
3. Act Like Jesus in all we do.
  - a. Titus 2 - We are to act like Christ in all we do.
  - b. Col 3:23-24 - This includes approaching our work with excellence, as if we were working for the Lord.
  - c. If we do our best at work, we bring Glory to God.
4. Be receptive to sharing your Faith when called upon.
  - a. If you are truly living your Faith, it is bound to happen. Some one at some point is going to ask you about your Faith.
  - b. Don't feel like you must have all the answers.
    - i. It is better if you share your experiences and journey.
    - ii. This makes it more personal.
5. Expect God to use you at work.
  - a. Listen for His voice to call you.
  - b. And then act.

**Recommended Song:** They'll Know We Are Christians

## Bible & Catechism Readings:

### Matthew 10:32-33

"So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

### Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

**Genesis 1:28**

And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

**Genesis 3:17-19**

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**Catechism 905**

Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, "that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life." For lay people, "this evangelization ... acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world."

**Catechism 2427**

*Human work* proceeds directly from persons created in the image of God and called to prolong the work of creation by subduing the earth, both with and for one another. Hence work is a duty: "If any one will not work, let him not eat." Work honors the Creator's gifts and the talents received from him. It can also be redemptive. By enduring the hardship of work in union with Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth and the one crucified on Calvary, man collaborates in a certain fashion with the Son of God in his redemptive work. He shows himself to be a disciple of Christ by carrying the cross, daily, in the work he is called to accomplish. Work can be a means of sanctification and a way of animating earthly realities with the Spirit of Christ.

**Catechism 2428**

In work, the person exercises and fulfills in part the potential inscribed in his nature. The primordial value of labor stems from man himself, its author and its beneficiary. Work is for man, not man for work. Everyone should be able to draw from work the means of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community.

**Catechism 308**

The truth that God is at work in all the actions of his creatures is inseparable from faith in God the Creator. God is the first cause who operates in and through secondary causes: "For God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Far from diminishing the creature's dignity, this truth enhances it. Drawn from nothingness by God's power, wisdom and goodness, it can do nothing if it is cut off from its origin, for "without a Creator the creature vanishes." Still less can a creature attain its ultimate end without the help of God's grace.

**Saint** - St. Peter - Although he denied Jesus several times, he still become the cornerstone of our Faith. There is still hope for us.

**Vignette**

It is crystal clear that Jesus expects us to openly share our faith and acknowledge Him before others: *"Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."* (Matthew 10:32-33) From Jesus, we learn that being a courageous and faithful Catholic in the workplace and the public square is not something to be ashamed of or to hide.

Christ is our greatest example on how to not be concerned about the respect of others. He always taught the truth, regardless of the audience or his surroundings. His enemies recognized this aspect of Christ's teaching, *"Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status."* (Matthew 22:16)

*"For the Christian living in the middle of the world, he or she must choose to act responsibly in daily work. Work should be ordered to the glory of God, to the service of society, to the fulfillment of family obligations. It also provides a vital area for personal apostolate."* (Francis Fernandez, In Conversation with God Volume 5, p.292-293)

As Catholics we are called to lead a Christ-centered life that integrates faith, family and work. We need to be the same person and the same Catholic 24/7. Leaving our faith at the door of the workplace is not an option as we need to pray in earnest for guidance and discernment on how to integrate our faith into our daily life.

### Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

Is your life compartmentalized in that you separate your work and family distinctly with no faith of any kind?

---

---

---

How do you witness your faith at work?

---

---

---

Do you prioritize your faith around your work or your work around your faith?

---

---

---

### References:

1. Being Catholic at Work by Randy Hain 3/1/2012:  
<http://www.integratedcatholiclife.org/2012/03/randy-hain-being-catholic-at-work-2/>
2. Faith at Work – Finding Purpose Beyond the Paycheck, book by Kevin Lowry and also on EWTN Live 2015-07-08 Fr. Mitch Pacwa w/ Kevin Lowry  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XieS9frRIU>

### Action Plan:

1. Take some time in prayer, preferably in adoration, to discern how Jesus wants you to be his light not just at home and in church but also in the work place.
2. If this is uncomfortable for you, what is one step you will take this week?

**Author:** Tim Arnold (Updated from Michael Copfer)