



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

ROOTED IN CHRIST

LENT 2022



Who has been a witness in your life?

I have asked many people this question: "Who has been a witness of faith in your life?" The answers are varied, just as people are unique and different - a mother or father, grandparent, parish priest, spouse, teacher, friend.

A few stories stuck out to me. One was the story of Lou, a man who married a devout Catholic, but did not convert to the faith until he was past retirement age. All the while, his wife was steadfast in her love of him as she waited patiently for God to capture her husband's heart.

Another was the tearful story of Penny, a woman who left the convent, got married, but never experienced the personal love of Christ until she went through the Ignatian Exercises at the age of 65.

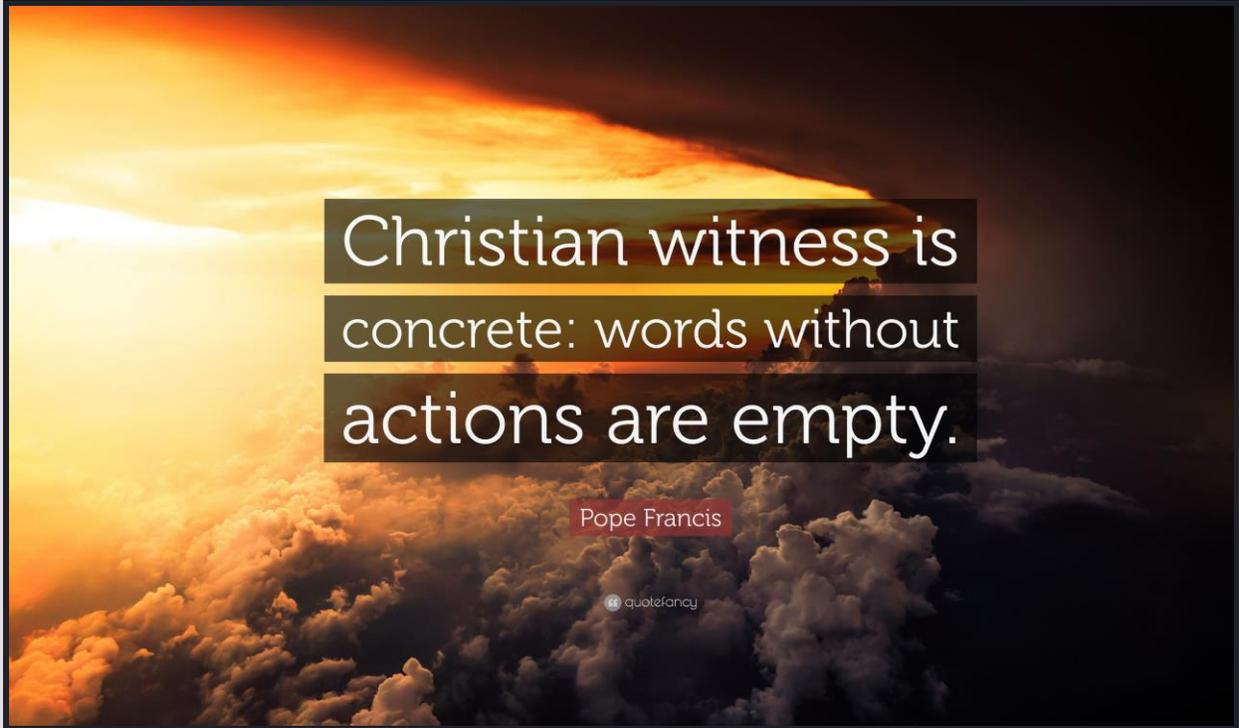
Charles, a middle-aged man, talked about his father being the biggest influence. On Sundays, his dad drove him to church and then sat in the truck while the young son went to Mass on his own. The wounds of that witness were so lasting that the man is still angry and disappointed, to this day.



You may never know the influence you have on a person.

As we move into the Triduum, we will hear the story of Christ's betrayal by the kiss of Judas. As the story unfolds, we will also be reminded of the many times Peter, the Rock, denied Christ.

Judas' story ends badly, because his shame is greater than his capacity to be forgiven. Peter's story, on the other hand, does not end with his failure. He is able to receive forgiveness, and with the coming of the Holy Spirit, Peter is emboldened to proclaim Jesus Christ as victor over sin and death, even to the point of giving his own life on a cross. Peter received the mercy of God and went on to live a life of witness.



I See in You

Be attentive to the qualities of Christ you see in other people, and let them know. "I see in you" is a great way to start a faith-based conversation.

"I see in you a genuine concern for others."

"I see in you the virtue of fortitude, how you keep at it even when it's hard."

"I see in you a gift of encouragement. You always build others up."

"I see in you a hunger for justice."

"I see in you a kind and generous spirit."

"I see in you a wisdom beyond your years."

Who knows how Judas' story might have ended, had someone recognized the Christ in him, and reflected that back to him - "I see in you."

There are people everywhere who need someone to stop, see, and name the beautiful parts, even where there is brokenness and sin. You never know the influence you may have on a person's life. Be that witness.

Our witness for
Christ is a light
in a dark
world.

—Our Daily Bread®



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Diocesan Annual Appeal. Thank you for your generosity!

Diocese of Scranton
2021 DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL 
