

Appendix 2

How to Share your Faith at School or in the Workplace

1. **Begin by being a good student or employee.** Understand that your work has an inherent dignity as being part of God's plan and is a gift by which we can collaborate with Him and be co-creators! Thus we are called to sanctify our work and through it give glory to God. In fact we can and should make work our prayer and offering to the Lord. As we strive to give our best in our work performance and do so with a positive attitude, this alone will be a witness to others that there is something different about us.
2. Together with an excellent work ethic, there are additional silent witnesses that will speak volumes to others including: refusing to engage in gossip especially bad-mouthing peers, colleagues or authority figures; listening compassionately to others; encouraging co-workers and classmates who are experiencing personal difficulties; treating people with kindness, patience and courtesy; being honest, truthful and fair in our interactions. In other words, **live the virtues and bear the fruits of the Spirit**, i.e., love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, longsuffering and self-control. These silent witness opportunities will plant seeds that give rise to questions about our life and faith. Others will begin to wonder, "What inspires him? How is he able to live like that?" In this way we never have to force discussions about religion at school or in the workplace but merely respond to the genuine interest of our colleagues who see something in us that is attractive.
3. **When questions are asked, be sure to have an answer for the hope that is within you.** This can be as simple as explaining the basic elements of our faith and how this affects and informs your life. Stories and personal witness of how God has helped you are the most convincing way to share faith. Avoid preaching at people or having a holier than thou attitude. Use conversational/simple language and be humble.
4. **Offer to pray for and with colleagues who ask for help with personal difficulties.** Never underestimate the power of prayer! Sometimes we have a tendency to say that we will pray for someone, but somehow we

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never do. Follow up with the person afterwards so that they know how much you care.

5. **Avoid the secular myth that faith is a private thing that should be separate from the public square.** Nothing could be further from the truth. Our faith should be fully integrated with every aspect of our life. As well, avoid the temptation to think that your position is too worldly or secular for you to have any impact. You don't have to hold a position at a Church or charitable organization to be used by God. In your morning prayer ask God to bring you opportunities that day to take some small step toward sharing your faith. Having prayed, trust God and be on the lookout for opportunities to reach out and be bearers of the Good News.