

*Slides Presented at the **New Leaven Discipleship Conference**
May 12, 2018 at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit
This material supported a talk that introduced New Leaven
as an example of a deliberate work of disciple-formation.*



A Foundation for Discipleship

www.newleaven.org

- The Vineyard of the Lord -

planted in the world,
it needs tending



KV

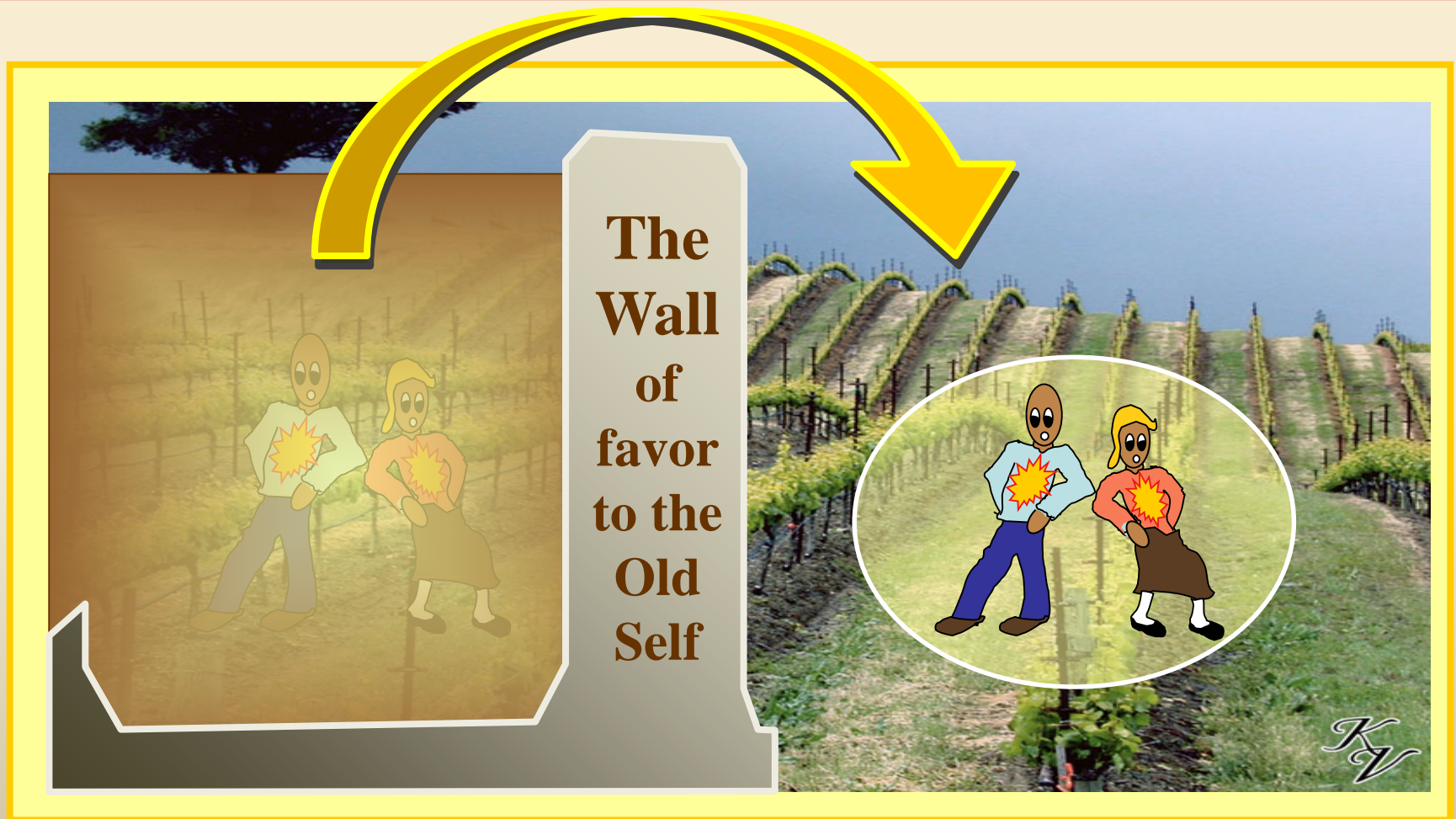
**We should be out there,
but we're not**




Pope St. John Paul II lamented the “Separation Between Life and The Gospel”



To emerge from behind The Wall daily living must become transformed



An Outpouring of the Holy Spirit is needed for serious transformation



**Ministry of
Outpouring**

-

**e.g., Alpha
Christlife**

Life in the Spirit

**What's
Next ?**



**New
Leaven**

**Integrated
Transformation**

the Gospel

The Person of Jesus

Sacred Scripture

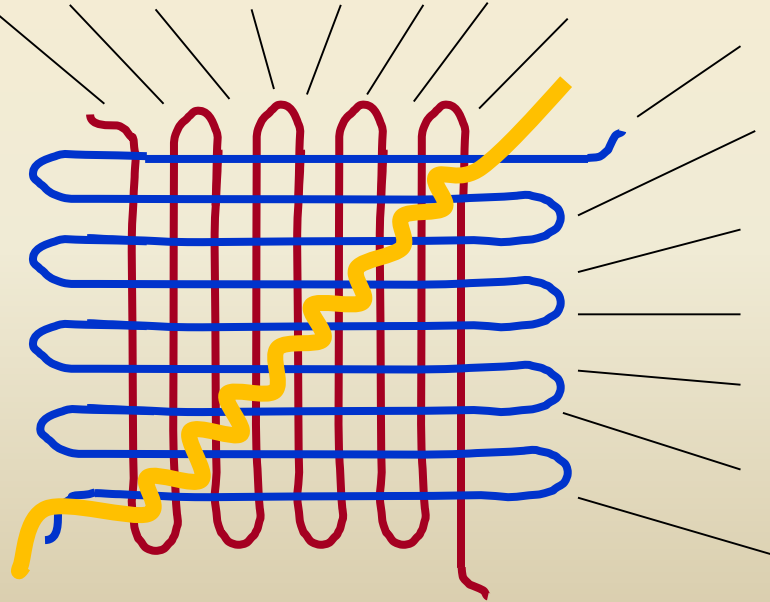
Prayer, Sacraments

Call to Holiness

Catholic Teaching

Charisms, Mission

Action of the Spirit



- Transformation -

Remaking the Fabric
by weaving the Gospel
into Life at Home

Family

Work

Relationships

Time

Body

Money

Mission

Vital Communion

Life at Home

Transformation

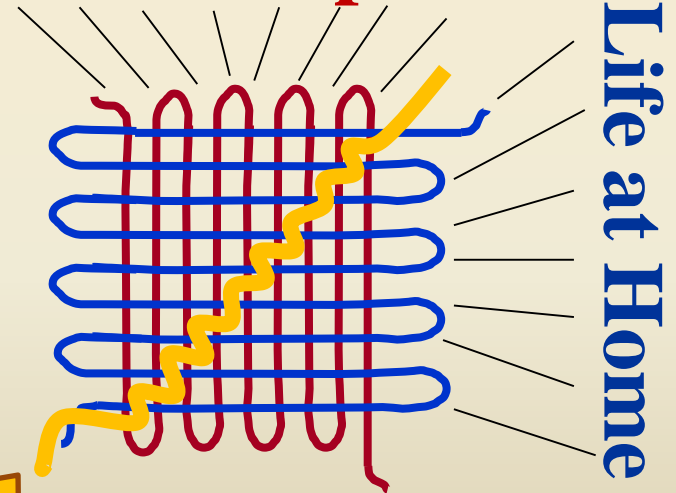
not just by willpower, but by...

The Golden Thread of the Spirit

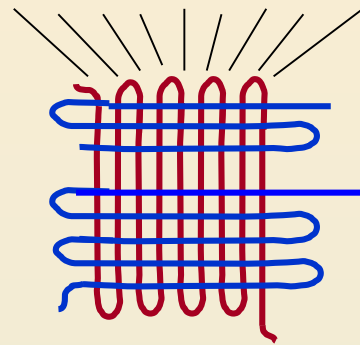
The Golden Thread

1. Invoking the Spirit
2. Listening to Truth
3. Discerning a step
4. Moving to take it
5. Living in Vital Communion

The Gospel



Each thread in New Leaven involves a module of 4 meetings



For example:

TIME

- 1) **TIME – Talk A** e.g., *“use well the time you’ve been given”*
- 2) **TIME – Progress A** (A guided inventory of my use of time)
- 3) **TIME – Talk B** e.g., *“appraise the value of your social media”*
- 4) **TIME – Progress B** (Taking a step to redeem my time)

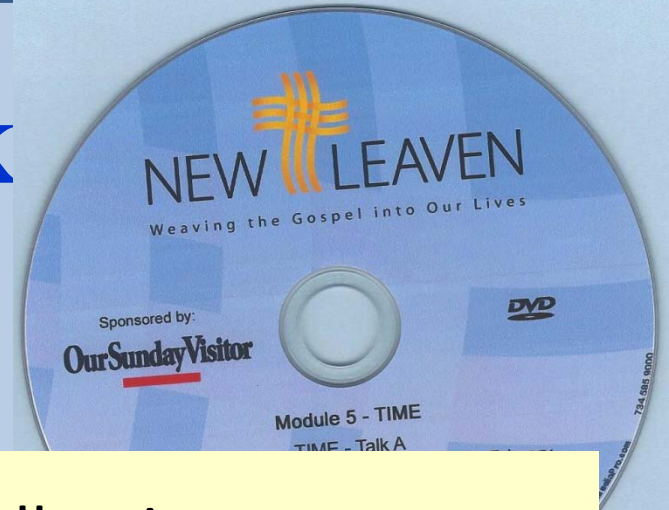
For example: **TIME**



**No TIME to say Hello, Goodbye,
I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!**

(Alice in Wonderland)

For example, the talk on **TIME**

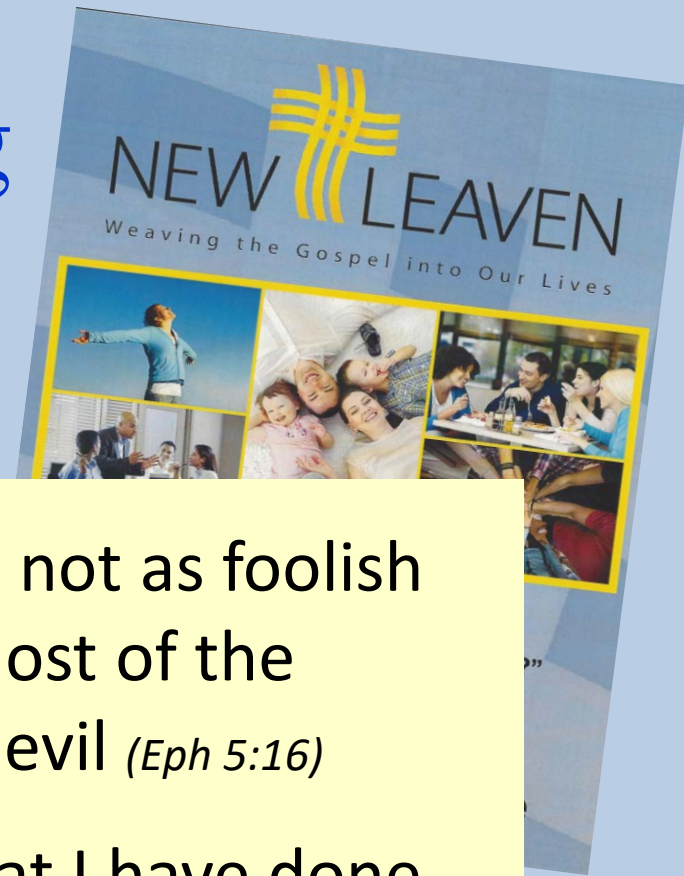


Because we have fallen into
the tyranny of the urgent,
we rush from one urgent thing to the next.

But since the most important things
are rarely urgent,
this leaves us always doing urgent things
but never doing important things.

(Matthew Kelly, *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* p63)

For example, the teaching on **TIME**



- Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil (*Eph 5:16*)
- I confess that I have sinned...in what I have done and in what I failed to do (*Penitential Rite of the Mass.*)
- Living in the perspective of our earthly end, we must utilize well the time given to us. (*Pope.St.JPII*)

For example, the practical worksheet on **TIME**

In New Leaven...

- We inventory our use of time
- Considering each item:
 - is this in good order?
 - is this pleasing to God?
- What good is neglected because of this?
- What important things are we just not doing?
- How do we justify the apparent priorities?
- Who would object if we changed?

Table 1 – Current Activities that take TIME ... Each Month

Item No.	The Activity (A name or description)	How Much Time out of 480 waking hrs per month	How Good Is this? (0 to 10)	How much time seems RIGHT? (hrs)	Gut Sense Keep / Change
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
Sum of Hours		480			

For example, a couple's experience with **TIME**

'Making TIME for the Family Dinner'

- it was just missing from our Inventory'
- it hit us both between the eyes
- looking around at the group, we said...

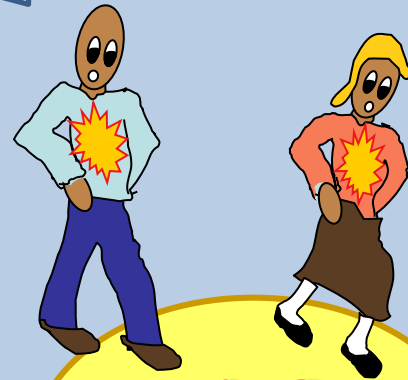
"We rarely do family dinner—even on Sunday"

- we explained our reality—so much going on
- then all of us just prayed together
- two weeks later—we had the seeds of a plan
- in time—we launched it, learned it, lived it

Reflecting on what happened

What
difference
does it make
for them to
have taken
this step?

The
Wall
of
favor
to the
Old
Self

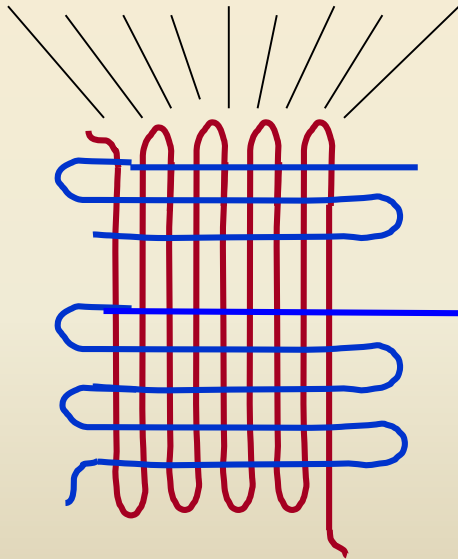


Life

The
Gospel¹⁵

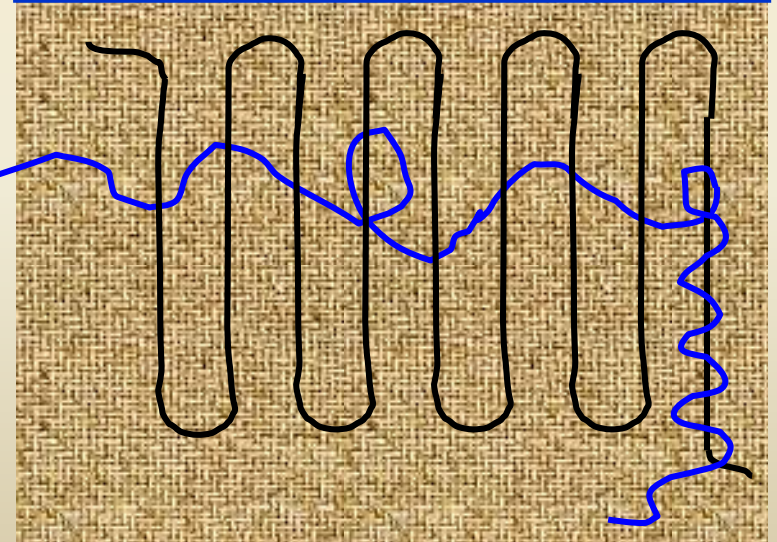
*“Create time for regular family meals without distraction,
to reclaim its sacred nature” (UTG, Action 1.3)*

Let's face it...
Our Life-threads are
entangled with worldly values



any thread
of my Life

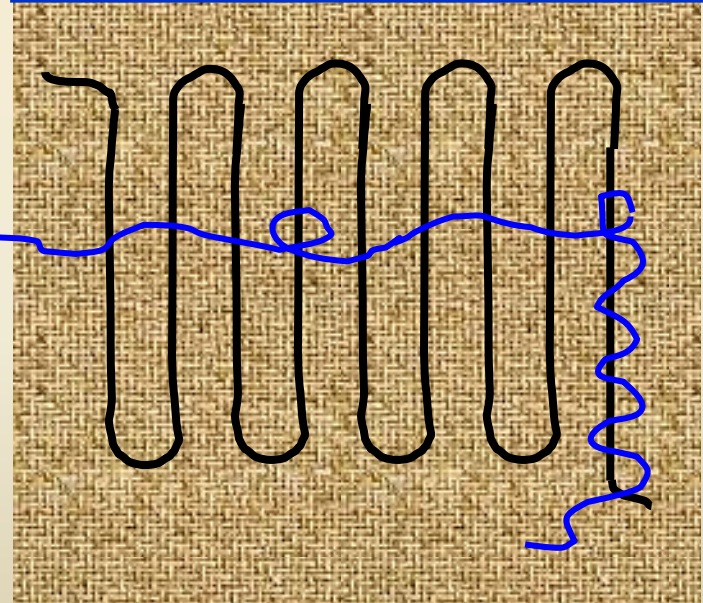
**The Kingdom
of this World**



Dispositions of Entanglement – (they all favor the Old Self)

- social conformance
- lifestyle preference
- pleasure seeking
- desire to control
- disordered habits
- risk aversion
- family pressure
- personal wounds

The Kingdom
of this World



Outcomes, as the group matures

What should we expect?

New Leaven participants will tend to:

- bring order to family life
- spend personal time more wisely
- manage money intentionally
- renounce contraception and other disorders
- manage work-life wisely
- reconcile and guard relationships
- rely on the Spirit for walking this way
- regard the group as the key to Mission

New Leaven – Cycles of Transformation

Each module reinforces a pattern:

- invoking the Spirit
- hearing the Truth
- discerning God's prompting
- taking bold steps, by grace

Each step of response makes us more:

- available to God
- responsive to the Spirit
- secure in group communion
- prepared to share the Christ we know

Small Group *Vital Communion*: A Base of Operations for Disciples

THE
WORLD

They come back

They go out

SMALL
group

“the Source and Fruit of Mission”

Forming disciples— the Church is calling for it

Catechesis must have a catechumenal style, as of integral formation rather than mere information; it must act in reality as a means of arousing true conversion. **(GDC 29)**

It's not a question of simply *knowing* what God wants; the individual must *do* what God wants. (This) requires a *capability* for acting and the *developing of that capability*... A total and ongoing formation of the lay faithful must be placed among the priorities of a diocese. **(JPII, CL58)**

Parishioners must be helped to grow continually in discipleship...in every area of their lives including marriage, family life, finances, work, and leisure. **(UTG Marker 9.2)**



New Leaven, Inc. is incorporated
in the State of Michigan
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OurSundayVisitor