

Teaching: Milk & Donuts (taken from Life Teen lesson of the same name)

I. Donut Factory

A. Welcome teens to the LIFE TEEN Donut Company - what a rare opportunity you have tonight to see our special "Church" donuts made "while you watch"

B. And what you will see will amaze you, because the donuts we make are not only the best donuts you'll ever taste, but these donuts are truly Catholic donuts

C. We want to take you on a tour through our factory tonight. We're so excited about our revolutionary concept in donuts – we just can't wait to share them with you – donuts with a message!!

II. The Big Picture – Revisited

A. Before we take you into the factory, we want to give you a little understanding of just what inspired the LTDC

B. Every employee here at LTDC has been touched by the amazing love of God the Father. We have each realized how God loved us so much that His whole plan was simply His way of showing us His love and making it possible for us to be in love with Him

1. And we have realized that because God loves us, He gave us the Church – to continue "communicating" His life to us, to be the "source" of our life and our strength

2. You see, the Church is the "Dispenser" of the graces – She is the vessel through which all of God's life is shared with us.

3. Jesus established the Church to be this – in a way, the Church itself is a Sacrament too, through which all the other sacraments flow – the Church could be called THE Sacrament

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III. The LTDC

A. We were so impressed and moved by this great love of God that we wanted to create a product that would capture an image of that love for all our customers.

1. So here we are tonight at the LTDC where each and every donut we make bears the image of God's love for YOU.

2. We have taken our donuts and made them in the image of the Church – bearing the marks that the Church bears – let me show you how!!

B. One

1. Every batch of dough made here at LTDC is made with precision – you could say that there is never any variance with our ingredients. Each is made with precisely the same measurements so that all our dough is – "unified" – always the same, every day of the week, every week of the year.

2. There is also our "secret" ingredient that I will tell you about later – an ingredient that makes all the others stand out with greater taste

3. This unity of our dough shows the first mark of the Catholic Church – the Church is One

a. The Catechism says that this Oneness is an Astonishing Mystery – not something that the church is able to attain on its own, but rather something that happens because of Christ

b. This is where our secret ingredient comes in here at LTDC – I'll tell you about that later

c. For the Church, this unity is held together by the bonds of our common profession of faith, our common celebration of the sacraments and by the apostolic succession we have in our bishops and priests.

C. Holy

1. Every piece of dough, perfectly sized, is then made "holy"

a. Like other donuts you may have seen, our donuts have a hole in the middle. But the hole in our donuts is symbolic of the holiness of the Catholic Church

b. The Catechism says that the Church is Holy because of Jesus. Jesus is present in the Church, and Jesus is the source of her holiness. Because of Jesus, every person in the Church has the capacity to attain holiness.

c. The Catechism says that the Church is made up of the holy people of God, and that Her members are called saints

2. Holiness that is real, yet imperfect

a. This quality of holiness means that the Church is holy because of Jesus and has the capacity to be holy

b. Yet, our human condition, perfect holiness is something yet to be acquired

c. It why you will notice that the holes in our donuts are not all the same. Some donuts have small holes, some have larger ones – all are slightly different because we make the holes by hand, not from a mold or a cutter – which leaves every donut marked by imperfect human touch

D. Catholic

1. Once our donuts are "shaped" and "holed", they then are deep fried to perfection.

2. Here at LTDC we have found the perfect amount of time for cooking our donuts, and once again there is a "secret" ingredient in our oil that is absorbed into the dough and cooked right in! We'll talk about that in just a few minutes.

a. The deep-frying of our donuts shows the third mark of the Church – catholic

b. "catholic" means universal – it means that the Jesus Christ is present in the Church, and that the Church has been sent out by Christ on mission to the whole human race

c. In the Church when we are baptized and confirmed, we are anointed with the sign of the cross on our foreheads, with oil

d. This sign marks us as Catholics, as followers of Christ, and partners in the mission of the Church

e. So when our donuts are lowered into the oil, with our secret ingredient, our donuts are marked and readied to be sent out to all the earth to satisfy the hunger of countless millions

f. It's our goal here at LTDC to bring our donuts to the multitudes, to the whole human race!!!

E. Apostolic

1. And finally, after our donuts are cooked, they are covered with our special glaze – that once again contains a special secret ingredient that only the LTDC knows

2. This special glaze is generously applied until the entire donut is completely covered

3. Here at LTDC, this glaze is made by adding to the glaze that came before – I mean, since the LTDC started, many, many years ago, we have never run out of glaze. We always have added more to the glaze before it runs out, so that the glaze bowl never runs completely out.

4. This way, there is always a "little" bit of the original glaze from our very first supply that is a part of every batch we run!!

5. This glazing technique captures the fourth mark of the Church - Apostolic

a. The Catholic Church is Apostolic, meaning first and foremost that it is built on the witness and testimony of the first Apostles – the ones that Jesus chose Himself and sent on mission

b. Through the Holy Spirit, the teachings of these first Apostles have been with us ever since the time of Jesus – this is called the "Deposit of Faith" – the teachings of the Apostles, kept and handed on

c. And this teaching continues to be taught to us today through the successors of the Apostles – the bishops and priests today

d. So, the teaching we have today is the same as what we originally had – kind of like our glaze, always having part of our original supply – our glaze is built on the foundation of our original glaze!

F. The Secret Ingredient

1. And what's this secret ingredient of ours – that makes our donuts so incredibly delicious?

2. It's LOVE – that's right, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE – in every batch, in every individual donut, and mixed into each step of each individual donut

a. That ONE dough is made with love, and there is love in the precise ingredients, every batch made with just the right amount

b. The Holes in our donuts are made by hand, with loving human touch

c. There is love mixed into the oil that all our donuts are cooked in – love that soaks right into the very heart of the donut

d. And there is love in the glaze that we put on our donuts after they are cooked – and we glaze our donuts with love – by hand, not with some machine

3. And it is LOVE that is the secret ingredient in the Church as well

a. Love, or charity, is the what binds everything together in perfect harmony – giving us the unity we have in the Church (CCC #815)

b. Love, or charity, is the soul of holiness to which all are called (CCC #826)

c. All particular churches are catholic through their communion with the Church of Rome, which presides in charity, or love (CCC #834)

d. And charity, or love, is the soul of the whole apostolate of the Church (CCC #864)

IV. Wrap Up

A. Donuts like you've never tasted before

1. The marks of the Catholic Church are ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC

2. And here at LTDC, our donuts are an image of the Church – with the same marks.

3. I hope you have enjoyed your tour of our donutmaking operation – but more importantly, I hope you are ready now to enjoy our donuts!!!