

BEING A WITNESS TO OUR FAITH

For some reason, many Catholics in the UK are not willing or are even embarrassed to be witnesses to their faith in front of non-Catholics.

HOW OFTEN DO WE ACT AS WITNESSES TO OUR FAITH?

When we are **Confirmed**, we receive the Holy Spirit, and one of the blessings we receive is to help us be 'Soldiers of Christ', to be witnesses to our faith; but when the opportunity arises, how many of us tend to fight it? Do we tell our friends and colleagues we are Catholics or hide the fact? If it is the latter, why are we afraid to openly let others know that we are?

Around the world, there are wonderful examples of Catholics being witnesses to their faith in the most simple yet powerful fashion. How?

IT'S TO DO WITH BLESSING ONESELF.

At football matches and when watching television, we often see foreign players blessing themselves as they go on to the field of play. Many athletes also do it without embarrassment during their sporting activities.

These Catholic sports people are witnesses to their faith in front of hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions on TV declaring: "I am a Catholic, and what I'm about to do is in the name of the Blessed Trinity".

They are showing how grateful they are to God for giving them the ability to use their special sporting talents. Some just bless themselves, but others go down on one knee as they do it. They are not afraid to say and show others they are proud of their faith.

For example, Lionel Messi is considered by many football fans to be the greatest soccer player in the world. To the game's enthusiasts, his abilities make even his opponents' fans do a very rare thing: they applaud him. He scores many goals from all sorts of angles, but there's one thing he always does whenever he does score, which is what is important to Catholics worldwide.

He waits until his teammates have finished congratulating him, then he blesses himself, looks up to heaven, and raises both arms in what we can only surmise is praise and thanksgiving to God for giving him such soccer abilities.



He's not the only soccer player to bless himself. Other people in all sorts of sports do it when they've achieved something special in their chosen sport. It's a wonderful way to thank God for their gifts.

THEY ARE BEING WITNESSES TO THEIR FAITH.

When this type of thanksgiving is done in this way, the people concerned are not only showing thanks to God, but are showing that they're proud to be Roman Catholics. They are an inspiration to us all.

How often do ordinary Catholics in the UK hide their religion from friends and acquaintances. Shouldn't we all be more like Lionel Messi and other super sports people and be proud to tell others which religion we belong to; be true witnesses to our faith.