## shares 2 passion for

BY MARY P. WALKER SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

e eune

ing to be judged by what we believed, what we've done and who we've loved. This can be summed up in one question.
Who did we bring with us into a lay Catholic whose passion for evangelization is drawing national attention "When we die, we are go-to be judged by what we said Marcel LeJeune,

Known as "The Catholic Evangelist," LeJeune is driven to help people grow closer to Christ. He travels to parishes and conferences speaking on a range of topics that both educate and challenge listeners to spread the Gospel message. Stephanie Grasso, youth minis-ter at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Cedar Park, heard LeJeune

Adult Ministry Conference last October and said, "When Mar-cel talks, it's not boring! He's speak at the diocesan Young Adult Ministry Conference last both creative and practical in his

the importance of personal spiritual growth and sharing the riches of the Catholic faith His presentations highlight the importance of personal

not an "optional" component of one's spiritual life, but an integral part of what it means integral part of to be Catholic. with others explains that evangelization is not an "optional" component in order to evangelize, VI, who said the church Citing Pope Paul the church "exists ," LeJeune of

When Catholics think of evangelization, the image of going door-to-door to discuss their faith with strangers often comes to mind. While such activity, properly done, can be effective, LeJeune said, "Evan-

gelization doesn't have to be gelization doesn't have to be dramatic. It means looking for opportunities to share our faith. Christ is our model. He shared himself with us when he lived on earth. He continues to share himself with us in the Eucharist."

of one's Catholic raturears
open the door to further disopen the foor example, many
cussion. For example, many
cussion. For example, catholic
non-Catholics attend Catholic
weddings and funerals. If they know may ask you questions about what to expect at these events, Simply letting others know one's Catholic faith can you are Catholic, faith can they

Another way to help others to connect with Catholicism is by inviting them to attend Mass with you. After experiencing this highest form of Catholic worship, many return again and again and ultimately join the

our baptism and confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us the

praying the rosary has influenced many non-Catholics to gain a deeper appreciation of the role of Mary in salvation 30 an active prayer life, frequent reception of the sacraments help us grow spiritually, but also aid our outreach to others. For eucharistic adoration and other example, devotional practices In addition, he contends

ishes to make evangelization a priority through evangeliza-tion committees and learning history the techniques of approaching others. "We shouldn't be afraid of failure or hearing 'no' to our approach. Rather we should fear saying 'no' to LeJeune

reject some of the teachings of the church. "We have to go to those people who need to hear the truth — even if they don't zation, LeJeune not only means but also reaching out to non-Catholics but also reaching out to those who are culturally Catholic but do not practice their faith or know it or don't want it at the When he speaks of evangeli-" said LeJeune. dents are available at designated times on campus to answer questions about the faith. This friendly format allows the questioners to approach

One effective technique of approaching others is simply asking if they have any prayer requests. "You'll be surprised

church, LeJeune said. He emphasizes that through evangelization that many of the people you ask are Catholic and haven't been to church in years," said LeJeune. This non-threatening approach provides the opportunity to in-troduce them to the parish and activities. invite them to Mass or other

tools, graces and gifts we need to evangelize. Our responsibility is to know the basic teachings of Catholicians. Studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and attending parish and diocesan classes are ing to share them with others good ways to learn these basics or delve deeper into the truths of the faith importance of evangelization by example, especially by the laity. Although priests and those

LeJeune also explained the

in religious

life are powerful

models of dedication to God their responsibilities within their

the laity. It is up to lay Catholics to provide examples of holivocations differ from those of

adults, parents, teens, children

as husbands,

and employees.

LeJeune has many opportu-

to share his faith as a hus-

penance and Communion, observing Catholics he rosary has influnot only

nities

band, father of five and in his

as assistant director

"day job"

of campus ministry at St. Mary Catholic Center, which serves

more than 11,500 Catholic stu-

A&M University

dents at Texas

and Blinn College

innovative

On campus, he created an novative way for students

to learn about Catholicism

God as he calls us to this holy work," said LeJeune. encourages par-

> is a popular program in which trained teams of Catholic stu-"Ask a Catholic a Question.

presses hope, stating, "Every generation has its challenges. We are seeing a renewal in the can hinder our efforts to bring others to Christ, LeJeune exchurch. It's up to church leaders seeing a renewal in the to bring

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the questioners and evangelists in the field to do the work of Christ." about LeJeune Although cultural pressures students without feeling



MARCEL LEJEUNE, a Catholic who has a passion for sharing the message of Christ, talks