**Thoughts for Home and Classroom Instruction**

**For most young Catholics, peer pressure to give up their faith can be intense. Imagine hearing this from your best friends; or worse, sensing it in their silence:**

**“When are you going to stop believing that Catholic stuff? I’ll bet you still believe in Santa Claus and the tooth fairy.”**

***“You’re going to MASS instead of coming with us to the \_\_\_\_\_? What does that say about our friendship?”***

***“You say you’re my friend, and you know what my \_\_\_\_\_ faith means to me. And yet you turn down my invitation to visit my worship service.***

**“Why be Catholic?” Our youth need to be ready with brief, compelling answers. Few young Catholics can give them – but their smart phones, iPads, etc., *can*.**

**Instruction**

**I suggest that parents and other instructors do the following:**

**1. Play the “*Come to Mass with me!*” MP3, discuss it briefly and answer questions. [It’s only 3:40 long and free at: 7stepcatholic.org];**

**2. Ask each student to download or bookmark it on his or her smart phone, iPad, etc. Give the free script to those without a smart phone;**

**3. Instruct students to respond along the following lines to any invitation to consider non-Catholic Christian worship:**

***“I don’t know my Catholic Faith as well as I should, Jason / Jessica, but with a tap or two on my smart phone we can hear something that explains that the Bible calls everyone to be Catholic. It will take less than four minutes. Can we listen to it together and see where it takes us?”***

**The Catholic student then plays “*Come to Mass with me!*”**

**For invitations from atheists, agnostics, and other non-Christians, the instructor follows the same steps, except that the MP3 would be “Why be Catholic, Dad?” and the suggested response might be:**

***“I don’t know my Catholic Faith as well as I should, Jason / Jessica, but with a tap or two on my smart phone we can hear something that explains that Science, the Bible and History point to Catholicism. It’s only about 20 minutes. Can we listen to it together, maybe during lunch break, and see where it takes us?”***

**The Catholic then plays, “Why be Catholic, Dad?”**

**The first 60 seconds of the first MP3 (ending with “Come to Mass with me!”) airs regularly**

**on JMJ Catholic Radio here in the Scranton Diocese.**

*Jerome*