

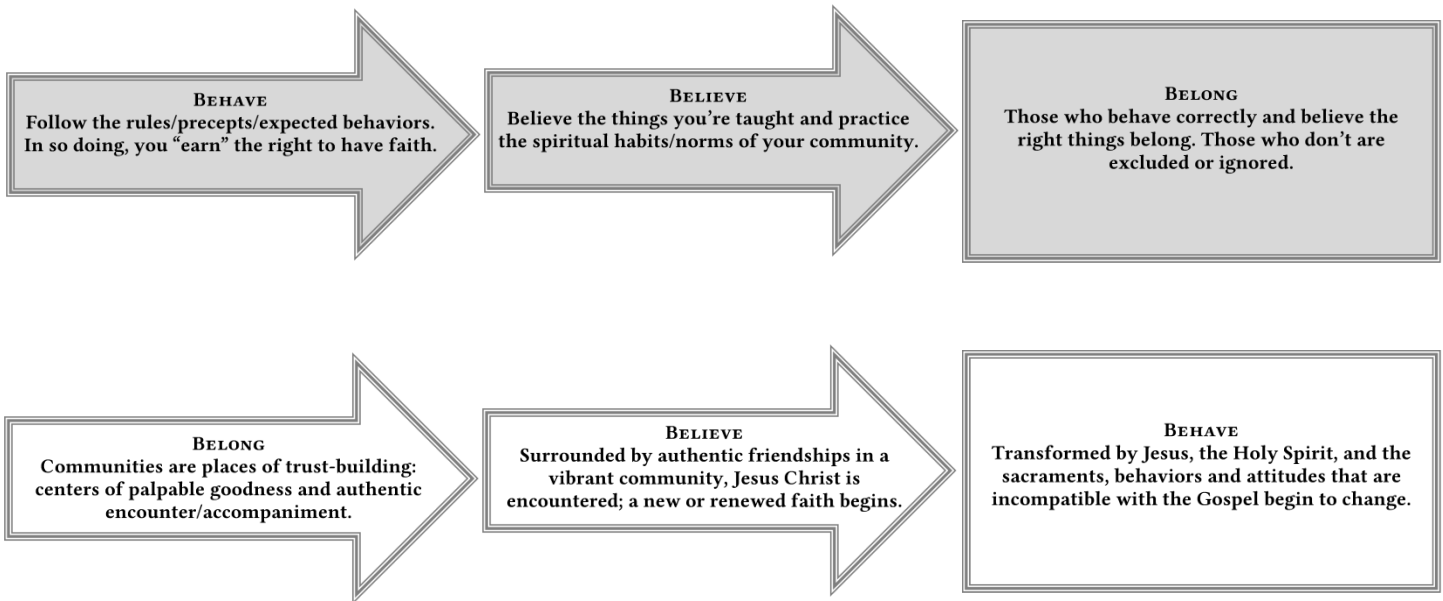
# IN MY EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY...

Maggie Melchior

*Reflect on Mary's words to Adele Brise. How do they relate to your work as an educator?*

## “GATHER THE CHILDREN”

- From which paradigm does our school/parish operate? What about my classroom?



- What are a few specific aspects of my school/classroom that facilitate a sense of welcoming, belonging, and community among my students?

## “IN THIS WILD COUNTRY”

- What about our school/parish demographic is “wild country?” Maybe not literal wilderness, but social or spiritual wilderness our students may experience: despair, loneliness, broken family situations, bullying, body image, financial insecurity, etc?
- In the Gospels, **Jesus heals and helps** those who are struggling **before he proclaims** who he is [the Son of God] and **before he begins to teach**. How can I apply this methodology of mercy with particularly difficult students and situations with parents/colleagues?

**“TEACH THEM WHAT THEY SHOULD KNOW FOR SALVATION.”**

- No matter what subject(s) and grade(s) I teach, am I comfortable articulating the basic message of the Gospel [the *kerygma*, or proclamation of Jesus]?
  - A loving God created each one of us for relationship with Him.
  - Our relationship with God is broken through sin.
  - Jesus restores our relationship with God through his life, death, resurrection.
  - Jesus invites us to follow him, to turn from sin and to give our lives to Him.
  - The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to us and He brings us new life through the Church.
  
- How do I build bridges of trust with my students and their families to “soften the soil” of their hearts to receive the *kerygma*?

**“TEACH THEM THEIR CATECHISM, HOW TO SIGN THEMSELVES WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS, AND HOW TO APPROACH THE SACRAMENTS.”**

- How do I approach Jesus in the sacraments? How is my faith and my family enriched by Mass, Reconciliation, Scripture, and a life of prayer?

**“GO AND FEAR NOTHING; I WILL HELP YOU!”**

- What am I worried about this year?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Adele Brise felt exceptionally unqualified and ill-equipped for her mission. How can I rely more on God's help and Mary's prayers of intercession in my ministry as an educator?