

OMG, MTG @ ST.D, Re: WWJD, LOL

Are you becoming as tired of "initializing" as I am? There are no more "St. Dunstan's Church" - it is now STD. So the above translation is: "Oh my God, Meeting at St. Dunstan's Church regarding "What would Jesus do? Laugh out Loud."

If it were simply a matter of abbreviation, that would be one thing, but when have you seen a short Video game? It is as if the Church must "dumb down" as the field of technology advances. Are we trying to short-cut who we are? Do you introduce yourself as M & M J S? Or is it still alright to be Mr and Mrs. John Smith? Initialing is somewhat "gnostic" because unless you have the "Special knowledge" that is required to decode the message - you are left wondering what the message is really about. Some churches today seem to be "embarrassed" by their denominational name. In one Communion, for example, it is assumed that everyone will know which Communion their churches are, since they may well think that they are the "one true Church." (Is there someone who wants to be a part of the one untrue Church?) In the Church of England, as one walks into the lanes and villages, the word "Anglican" is not always used - since EVERYONE knows what they are, and many "non-Denominational Churches" in this country are, in fact, affiliated with some group, but do not advertise it, lest someone be troubled because of a denominational perception. In another city in which I lived the largest church in town was, in fact, a Mennonite Church, but it was not posted on any of its literature. Who wants to eat Scrapple?

Certainly, we live in an age where many people within a particular "denomination" may well be troubled by their national affiliation, but what exactly are they? Independent - and if so - from what or whom? Not connected to anyone else? Purer than others? The reality is that not everyone lives in a world of abbreviations, and it is not essential for the Church to be a series of initials in order to reach people in need. We still have Jesus Christ and the Apostles, not "JC and the guys." God gave us the privilege of "naming," but I am not convinced that we have been given the mandate to reduce the Holy to initials.

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