

FREE Evangelization Inserts for Bulletins Newsletters & Websites

**12th Sunday in Ordinary
Time
June 24-25, 2017**

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Questions, Comments Suggestions?
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Living Catholic in the 808: When Does Faith Disappear?

**Exerpt By: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
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Just in my own lifetime there has been an unprecedented decline in the number of people who go to church regularly and, more recently, an equally unprecedented spike in the number of people who claim to have lost their faith completely and are now classified under a religious category called, “None”.

But have these individuals really lost their faith? When they use the word “None” to refer to their religious beliefs they generally explain that with phrases to this effect: It doesn’t make sense to me anymore! I’ve lost faith in religion and the church! I can’t pretend any longer! I’m not sure whether or not I believe in God!

What’s common among all these phrases is the concept of “believing” or “belief”: “I just don’t believe it anymore!” But is ceasing to believe in something the same thing as losing one’s faith?

Not necessarily. It can be one thing to no longer believe in something, but it can be something quite different to lose one’s faith. To cease believing in a set of faith propositions doesn’t necessarily equate with losing one’s faith. Indeed, the loss of one’s belief system is often the condition for a purified faith.

See the full May 22, 2017 column at www.ronrolheiser.com for the development of the difference between belief and faith.