

GO MAKE DISCIPLES NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2022



Foundations for Evangelization

September is upon us and most parishes are getting back into the swing of regular meeting times and gatherings. In order to move forward in our mission we have to ensure that we have the foundation that is necessary to bring the Gospel to the world. If you have not already resumed the monthly/regular leadership formation, now is the time to get back to it! Now is also a great time to revisit the new GMD planning that will begin this coming Advent!

Agenda for the September Team Meeting

1. Prayer

2. Take time to check in with members of the team. Share a short reflection on a personal lived experience of the 4 holy habits. An optional reflection can be done on Mary's example of holiness as the first disciple of Jesus and the artwork below.

3. [If you have begun a formation plan already - book/study etc] Take some time to reflect on what you have learned from your book/study. **Discuss** how this impacts the work and mission of the parish.

4. Transition your meeting to a discussion on the upcoming GMD plan: Review your GMD plan from last year. **Discuss** the ways that you did these things well this past year. Did you meet the goals of this year's plan? What would you change or do differently? Look at each of these components and reflect on them individually. Take notes.

5. Take some time to review the the instructions for planning for GMD for the next Church year if you haven't already done it. (The template is linked below. It is a simpler form and looks different from last year). Each plan is to include:

- A plan to continue to **Form leadership** (in faith, the spiritual life and missionary skills)
- A plan to encourage all the faithful of the parish to **Seek Holiness**
- A plan to equip the 72 and all people to **Witness to Christ** in the world

Begin brainstorming for this coming year, using the template. Think strategically about how these 3 aspects can be incorporated into the school, religious education, adult faith formation, and parish organizations/events.

6. As part of your planning, take some time to reflect on the different things you have seen around the Diocese/Vicariate/neighboring parishes. **Discuss** what you have observed. What has impressed you that you have seen and heard about for leadership formation? For forming the 72? For reaching out beyond the parish in the world?

Remember: These are just initial conversations! Your Phase 3 plan isn't due until later this year!

News & Updates...

A Word About

Into the Deep

As you know Bishop Hying has launched a strategic planning process to help the diocese and parishes move from maintenance mode to mission. *Into the Deep* will ultimately serve our mission of Evangelization. Bishop has specifically asked all us not to pause or stop all the good work of GMD in this planning process. We do not know yet where this process will lead. So he has emphasized the importance to make a plan for next year to continue forming leaders, the 72 and going out into the world pursuing the mission! We are grateful to Bishop Hying for his leadership and guidance!

Adult Confirmation

Each year Bishop Hying will be Confirming adult Catholics seeking to complete Christian Initiation (In Spring of 2023). Please begin advertising and planning a formation process for adults who will be seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation. For assistance contact the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for resources or more information.

Small Group Training

Opportunity to Begin in Fall

If you are a part of a rural parish and are interested in starting small groups in your parish Marie Lins will be starting a Reach More training group this fall. 1-2

Mentor Communication

In the past few weeks you heard from us that you will soon be contacted by your Diocesan Mentor to resume a regular schedule of communication and support. Feel free to reach out if you have questions or needs as you plan for the coming year.

designates from a parish can join and learn how to bring this work back to the parish. Contact Marie Lins at marie.lins@madisondiocese.org for more information.

Template for Phase 3

This year's motto: Keep it simple! In the last three newsletters we have highlighted the three major components to this year's new GMD plan. Take some time to review the template.



Foundations for Evangelization

In order to effectively disciple another and lead them to a relationship with Christ it is important to have a foundational understanding of Evangelization and tools that will equip us for the mission. There are several resources available and ideas that equip us to fulfill the mission by providing a foundational understanding.



One excellent resource to do this is *Foundations for Evangelization* by the Evangelical Catholic on Formed.org. It is an 8-part series that leads the lay faithful through a journey of "equipping" to share the Gospel with the world.

Recommended format

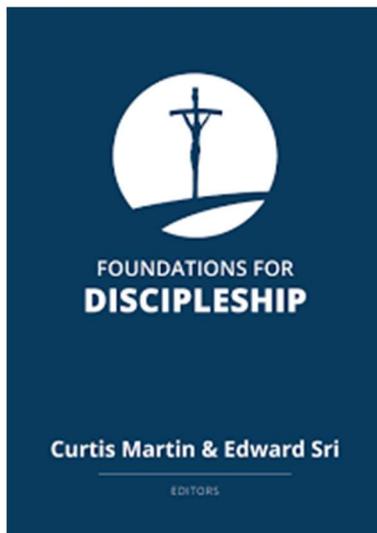
Invite committed parishioners to quarterly workshops or retreat days focused on evangelization. Make it clear that they are not being asked to sign up for anything or commit to anything. Create a warm and welcoming environment with food and drink--a small group faith-sharing dynamic, not a committee meeting. Watch a section or two of the course content together and allow time for discussion. Include substantial time for prayer and reflection. Conclude with a practical suggestion that helps people to move from theory to practice (e.g. call that person you've been thinking about to set up a time to have coffee; ask that person if there is anything you can pray for). After the first meeting, start by asking people to share success stories or struggles with evangelization since the last time you met.

Another option

Revive Parishes has a free training series called Everyday Apostles: Ordinary Methods to Help You Share an Extraordinary Message, hosted by Ryan O'Hara. Learn the mindsets, skills, and habits you need to share your faith with those around you.



Prefer books over videos? Try a book study of *Foundations of Discipleship* by Curtis Martin & Edward Sri.



Roadmap for training in the basic skills of Christian living and evangelization, including:

- How to live “The Little Way of Evangelization”
- How to accompany others in the journey of “Win,” “Build” and “Send”
- How to help others grow in prayer, Eucharistic devotion, Christian friendship, and care for the poor
- How to share the Gospel and your testimony
- How to deepen one’s own interior life, from which all evangelization flows
- How to invite others into mission

The Seven Sorrows of Mary

In the month of September we honor and remember Mary. We may often reserve the sorrowful Mother for the season of Lent but it is only fitting to remember the seven sorrows of Mary on September 15 (the day following the exaltation of the Holy Cross). It is fitting to remember Mary, as she is the first disciple to pick up the cross of Christ and follow him. She witnesses her discipleship through her seven sorrows: The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35); The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2: 13-15); Finding the child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2: 41-50); Mary Meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary (Luke 23: 27-31); The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (John 19:25-30); Removing Jesus from the Cross (John 19:31-37); and The Burial of Jesus (Mark 15:40-47). Another thing to take note of - Fr. Mazzuchelli had a great devotion to the seven sorrows of Mary! Fr. Mazzuchelli, pray for us!

