



Being a disciple means...

Prayer AND Action/Grace AND Works

As a parish we've explored in the last few years what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We've talked about the importance of knowing that a personal relationship with God is possible. We've talked about saying yes to Jesus' invitation to follow him and giving time for our relationship with him to grow through prayer. We've talked about the basic Gospel message – that we all sin, but that Jesus claimed the victory over sin and death and shares that victory with each of us.

Discipleship is so much more than believing the right things, making it to church on Sundays and saying "I love you, Lord." The life of a disciple shows itself in outward action, not for show but out of a genuine care for fellow humans and creation.

We see this discipleship alive in so many ways in our parish, through the good causes supported by our CCWs, countless Christmas gifts given and meals served through Adopt a Family and the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul. We support the Peace Center food shelf, special outreach projects by our school, Faith Formation and youth, and service to the homebound and homeless. Our ministries to the grieving and the loving care of our parish grounds... all of these help make our discipleship genuine. In addition, we have many parishioners who serve others through their careers, in their families and neighborhoods, in quiet gifts of generosity and selflessness.

All of these actions qualify as charitable works, the corporal works of mercy. According to the U.S. Catholic bishops, these works are one of the two feet of love in action. What about the other foot?

Discipleship Update

July 2020

Our New Prague Area Catholic Community parish mission:

We are a Catholic community forming disciples of Jesus Christ dedicated to loving God through our worship, sharing the Good News, and loving service to others.



The second foot, which gives balance to our Christian mission, is social justice. What does that mean? "Social justice concerns the social, political and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions."

(Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 83)



USCCB

The second foot is more challenging. It means things like expanding access to affordable housing, extending legal protection to unborn children, supporting environmental protection laws, addressing the root causes of racial discrimination, and promoting peace. Sometimes this can mean donating to organizations that work for justice, but it also means learning about the issues, carefully considering our vote for elected officials who can enact laws and implement programs, and contacting them to make our views known. It can mean working with organizations that promote the common good. It can mean prayer and fasting and respectful dialogue with others.

One person cannot take action on all these fronts, but it's good to discern what each of us may be called to do, to make sure that all our brothers and sisters have what they need to thrive, and to care for creation.