

A Pastor's Perspective

September 12, 2021 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In the Gospel according to St. Matthew, before he ascends to heaven, Jesus offers the Great Commission, directing his disciples to: *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”*

Three things strike me as significant in this final command from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

- We are to “go and make disciples” by the example of our lives, witnessing to our faith by sharing the Word of God with everyone we meet.
- Once others have been inspired by our testimony, we offer them the saving grace of the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Afterwards, we continue to teach others to observe all that Jesus has commanded us, implying that we all have something more to learn about our faith.

When was the last time we presented ourselves to the Church to grow in and deepen our knowledge, understanding, and wisdom of our Catholic faith? Do we help our children receive their sacraments? Do we encourage participation in faith formation and youth ministry? Do we take part in adult education or scripture study?

Next weekend (September 18-19), the Church celebrates **Catechetical Sunday**. Recognizing the power of ongoing faith formation, the theme for this year is: *“Say the Word and My Soul Shall Be Healed.”* This observance is an opportunity for everyone in our parish community to recommit themselves to sharing in (as a student-learner of any age or as a catechist-teacher) the Word of God through various programs, such as those in the list below (this list is not exhaustive – please see our parish or online bulletin - stpaulbangor.me - or call our parish office for more information):

- **Sacrament programs:**
 - Marriage preparation for engaged couples;
 - Baptism preparation for new or expectant parents;
 - Confession, Confirmation & First Eucharist for young people completing their initiation sacraments; and
 - Rite of Christian Initiation for adults seeking full communion with the Catholic Church.
- **Faith Formation:**
 - Religious education for grades kindergarten through 5;
 - Middle and high school youth ministry for grades 6 through 12;
 - That Man Is You, faith enrichments for adult men;
 - Walking with Purpose, Scripture study for adult women; and
 - Adult faith sharing classes, which in the fall will be about “The Mass” and in the spring about “The Eucharist”.

Please pray about how the Lord is calling you and your loved ones to learn something new and exciting about our Catholic faith through these offerings and programs.

*Peace and blessings,
Msgr. Andrew*