MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

VISION FORMATION GATHERINGS

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

EVANGELIZATION &
MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

JOHN 15:5

2021 - 2022

“I dream of a 'missionary option,' that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

-- Pope Francis

PURPOSE

Sacred Scripture tells us that 'Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he' (Proverbs 29:18). These gatherings, which will feature some of the brightest minds, leading some of the most fruitful ministries in the Church, are designed to impart to our diocese's leaders a common vision.

These gatherings will be both rich in formation and practical in application. We want to deepen our own understanding of the Church's mission in our time and place, but also move forward confident of clear steps to take in pursuit of it.

FORMAT

These will not be ‘business’ meetings; rather, they will be gatherings for formation and prayer. Each session will be held virtually and recorded for those who cannot attend. The time and structure for each will be very similar:

3:00pm - Welcome and Introduction
Opening Prayer
Introduction of Speaker
3:15pm - Presentation
4:00pm - Questions & Answers with the Speaker*
4:15pm - Gathering of Prayer Intentions and Closing Prayer
4:30pm - Conclusion

**Questions submitted in advance and during the presentation*

SESSION 1

December 7, 2021 - 3:00 -4:30 PM

OUR NEW APOSTOLIC MOMENT

Msgr. James Shea, University of Mary

"Ours is not an age of change, but a change of ages." -- Pope Francis

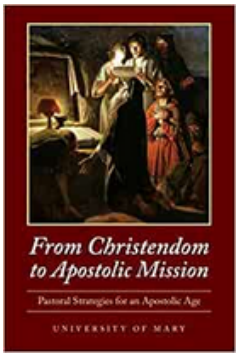
"Even in countries evangelized many centuries ago, the reality of a 'Christian society' which, amid all the frailties which have always marked human life, measured itself explicitly on Gospel values, is now gone."
-- Pope St John Paul II

DESCRIPTION

This session will be foundational for all of the following sessions. Msgr. Shea will provide us with a lens through which we can see our culture and the situation that the Church finds herself in. By seeing clearly and understanding deeply our cultural moment, we are able to live out our mission more fruitfully. This session will draw upon much of Monsignor Shea's work in *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. It would be very helpful, though not necessary, for attendees to have read and even discussed his book beforehand.

GOALS

- Understand our cultural situation and the urgency of the Church's Mission in our new Apostolic Era
- Equip ourselves with tools to discern what aspects of our Church life are relics of our Christendom mode of ministry



Monsignor James Shea serves as president of the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND. Monsignor Shea was inaugurated in 2009 as the sixth president of the university and, at the age of 34, became the youngest college or university president in the United States. The oldest of eight children, Monsignor Shea grew up on a dairy and grain farm near Hazelton, North Dakota. Monsignor Shea has worked with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity at the Gift of Peace AIDS Hospice while teaching religion at two inner-city elementary schools in Washington, D.C. In Rome, he served as chaplain for the Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and also at the Rome campus of the Center for Catholic Studies at the University of Saint Thomas. Deeply committed to the education and formation of young people, he has been an inspirational teacher and mentor for many students.

SESSION 2

March 1, 2022 - 3:00 -4:30 PM

THE MISSION OF THE PARISH

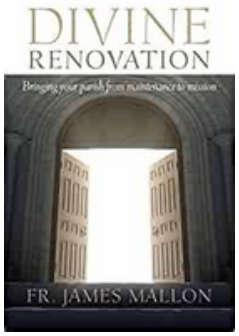
Fr. James Mallon, Divine Renovation Ministry

"The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community." -- Pope Francis

DESCRIPTION

This session will provide an outline of the fundamental mission of the Church and how the parish can become an increasingly fruitful hub of that mission in the local community. We all know that leading a parish (let alone a cluster of parishes) means wearing many different hats and overseeing a great many different tasks, from the most profound to the more mundane. Drawing on his work with Divine Renovation Ministry and his experience of parish renewal as a pastor, Fr. Mallon will walk us through what it means to move a parish from maintenance to mission:

- What is the parish's mission?
- How do we distinguish between mission and maintenance? And between healthy and unhealthy maintenance?
- What are the first steps and guiding principles of leading our parishes into a life of mission?



GOALS

- Deepen our understanding of the Church's fundamental mission
- Equip ourselves with principles for parish renewal
- Grow in confidence in our direction for growth as parish leaders

Father James Mallon is pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and founder of the Divine Renovation Ministry. Father James is also the author of the best-selling book *Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission*, an engaging guide for parishes seeking to cultivate vibrant and dynamic faith communities centered on missionary discipleship. The message of Divine Renovation has resonated in the hearts of tens of thousands of pastors and the laity throughout the world. It has inspired and motivated them to act and seek help in transforming their own faith community. To answer their needs, Divine Renovation Ministry was created. Father James serves the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth with half of his time and serves in the Divine Renovation Ministry with the other half of his time. Born in Scotland, Father James and his family moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1982. After studying at Christ the King Seminary in British Columbia and St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, Father James was ordained to the Catholic priesthood in 1997.

SESSION 3

May 31, 2022 - 3:00 -4:30 PM

THE PRIEST'S UNIQUE ROLE IN THE CHURCH'S MISSION

Bishop Andrew Cozzens,
Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis

"Without priests the Church would not be able to live that fundamental obedience which is at the very heart of her existence and her mission in history, an obedience in response to the command of Christ: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations' and 'Do this in remembrance of me'." – Pope St. John Paul II

DESCRIPTION

This session will be specifically geared toward the unique role of the ministerial (ordained) priest in carrying out the Church's Mission. If our parishes are going to dive deeper into mission, our priests will have to be even more discerning and intentional in stewarding their time. Bishop Cozzens, whose doctoral work centered on the theology of priesthood, will help provide us with a richer understanding of which aspects of the Church's mission are unique responsibilities of the priest and which are not and practical tools to fruitfully carry out that discernment.

GOALS

- Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the priest's role in the Church's Mission
- Equip ourselves with tools to discern how we can maximize our impact as leaders of our parishes

The Most Reverend Andrew Cozzens serves as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. A native of Denver, Bishop Cozzens is the youngest of three children. During a period of discernment after college, Bishop Cozzens served as a travelling missionary to young people around the country with Twin Cities-based NET Ministries, and worked for one year at the University of St Thomas in Saint Paul as a missionary with Saint Paul's Outreach, leading college Bible study groups. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in 1997. On October 11, 2013, Pope Francis appointed him as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Bishop Cozzens's ordination to the Episcopacy took place December 9, 2013, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. He currently serves as Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

SESSION 4

December 6, 2022 - 3:00 -4:30 PM

THE PRIMACY OF PRAYER IN THE CHURCH'S MISSION

Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

"How I long to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelization full of fervor, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction! Yet I realize that no words of encouragement will be enough unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts. A spirit-filled evangelization is one guided by the Holy Spirit, for he is the soul of the Church called to proclaim the Gospel. " - Pope Francis

DESCRIPTION

This session will focus on the absolute necessity of prayer for the Mission of the Church, grounding us in the truth that the Holy Spirit is the primary agent of the Church's Mission and of renewal. Fr. Dave will guide us into a deeper understanding of this bedrock principle and then walk us through practical ways of being a leader that *actually* leads from a place of prayer, through prayer and into prayer.

GOALS

- Develop a deeper understanding of the critical role that prayer plays in the Church's mission
- Equip ourselves with tools to lead with prayer as our *true* foundation

Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, is the President of Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH. He is also a much sought-after evangelist who speaks at conferences, retreats and parish missions around the U.S. and world. For twenty years Fr. Dave has also been leading pilgrimages around the world to some of the holiest and most important sites in our Christian faith. He spends much of his time helping others come to know God's love for them through his preaching, writings, CDs, and other spiritual outreaches. Fr. Dave has written several books: *Spiritual Freedom - God's Life Changing Gift*; *Encounter Jesus - From Discovery to Discipleship;* and most recently, *Breath of God*. Fr. Dave also created a beautiful 14 part video series called *The Wild Goose*, which explores what it means to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Related Resources

DIOCESAN RESOURCES

The Office of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship has a series of videos teaching the basic concepts and terminology of the New Evangelization. Topics include:

- What does it mean to be a disciple?
- What do we mean by conversion?
- Are all Catholics called to be disciples?
- What is evangelization?
- Why do we need a 'New Evangelization'?
- What is the Church's Mission?

These and links to many other resources are available on the diocesan website at: catholicdos.org/evangelization-missionary-discipleship.

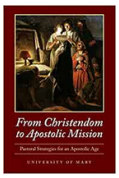
ADDITIONAL WEBSITES

Revive Parishes offers 15 free courses on a number of topics, featuring world class speakers such as Fr. Mike Schmitz, Chris Stefanick, Julianne Stanz, and Pat Lencioni. Topics include: Discipleship, Evangelization, Preaching, Parish Renewal, Leadership Teams, and more. Visit reviveparishes.com.

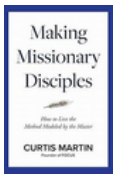
Divine Renovation accompanies parishes in their efforts to go on mission. Founded by Fr. James Mallon, they offer a number excellent books, podcasts, trainings, mentorship programs and more. Visit www.divinerenovation.org.

Acts XXIX - is another apostolate that accompanies parishes into mission. Founded by Fr. John Ricardo, they have excellent podcasts, articles, videos, conferences and more. Visit www.actsxxix.org.

BOOKS

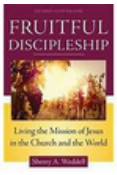


From Christendom to Apostolic Mission
Monsignor James Shea

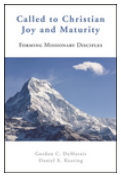


Making Missionary Disciples
Curtis Martin

Divine Renovation
Rev. James Mallon



Fruitful Discipleship
Sherry Weddell



Call to Christian Joy and Maturity
Gordon DeMarais & Daniel Keating

Faith for Exiles
David Kinnaman & Mark Matlock

“We are at the end of Christendom. Not of Christianity, not of the Church, but of Christendom. Now what is meant by Christendom? Christendom is economic, political, social life as inspired by Christian principles. That is ending -- We’ve seen it die... These are great and wonderful days in which to be alive. ... It is not a gloomy picture -- it is a picture of the Church in the midst of increasing opposition from the world. And therefore live your lives in the full consciousness of this hour of testing, and rally close to the heart of Christ.”

-- Ven. Fulton Sheen