

# MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

Missionary discipleship has become the organizing focus in the Catholic Church recently, the prism through which believers discuss evangelization, catechesis, prayer, service and virtue. In His final words of the Great Commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations!" (Matt. 28:19-20), Jesus Christ calls all of the baptized to proclaim the liberating and saving Gospel to others, forming our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Faith that we treasure.

As I travel around our Diocese, the same questions arise: How can I live my Catholic Faith with authenticity and joy? How do I develop a living relationship with God that truly centers my life? How do we pass on the Faith to our beloved young people? How do we transform the poverty and suffering of the world and change society for the better? How can my parish move from maintenance to mission, becoming more welcoming, energized, active and participative? How do we reach all of the people who have simply checked out of Church and religion all together?

For some years now, the Holy Spirit has been stirring the hearts of believers throughout our country and world to ask these fundamental questions. The emerging answer is the reality of missionary discipleship which coalesces the multiple facets of the Church's faith and life into a coherent response to Christ's personal invitation to follow Him.

So we raise the essential question: What is missionary discipleship?

[Read the rest of the Prologue and Sections I-III of the Common Vision for Evangelization online.](#)



## A COMMON VISION FOR EVANGELIZATION

### PRAYING TO DISCERN GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR PARISH

"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). Our efforts to evangelize are only going to be successful if we rely totally on the power of prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To that end, in this and in each of the next several issues of the GMD newsletter, you will receive a "homework" assignment to pray in a specific way that may be new for many of us (more detailed instructions are on page 2). Our hope is that these exercises in prayerful discernment will be a helpful preparation for the fall when you will be asked to draft a written parish plan for Phase 2 (due by Thanksgiving).

## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS KIND OF PRAYER AND DISCERNMENT:

Read these articles from Fr. John Riccardo:

[Welcome to the Trailer](#) + [God is the Architect](#)

Or listen to these podcasts from the ACTS XXIX Team:

[Do we really believe God speaks?](#) + [How do we know the Holy Spirit is guiding us?](#)

## PRAYING ABOUT “THE 72”

Before the next meeting with your staff or team, personally commit to 30 - 60 minutes in prayer around these three questions:

- How do we identify “the 72” who are already disciples in our parish?
- How do we equip “the 72” with confidence and competence to preach the gospel?
- How can “the 72” reach out to those who are disengaged or on the margins of our parish?

Ask God to answer these questions. Most likely he won't do so audibly, but pay attention to anything that he might place on your heart or in your mind.

When you get together again share with each other what you think you may have heard in prayer. Have someone on the team take thorough notes during this time of sharing.

## YEARLY FORMATION NEWSLETTER TOPICS

### MAY 2021

The Mission

### JUNE 2021

Missionary Discipleship

### JULY 2021

Evangelization

### AUGUST 2021

How to Evangelize

### SEPTEMBER 2021

Jesus + The Story | Faith

### OCTOBER 2021

Daily Prayer | Hope

### NOVEMBER 2021

Holy Mass | Charity

### DECEMBER 2021

Reclaiming Sunday | Justice

### JANUARY 2022

Monthly Confession | Humility

### FEBRUARY 2022

Self-Denial | Moderation

### MARCH 2022

Praying with Scripture | Wisdom

### APRIL 2022

Missionary Discipleship II | Courage

## NOT A COMMITTEE MEETING

A note for parish staff and evangelization teams: **Think outside the box. Meet in homes.**

**Share meals or drinks together. Discuss your faith, your parish, and what God is saying to you in prayer.**