

OUR BAPTISMAL CALL



"The lay faithful, precisely because they are members of the Church, have the vocation and mission of proclaiming the Gospel: they are prepared for this work by the sacraments of Christian initiation and by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In a very clear and significant passage from the Second Vatican Council we read: 'As sharers in the mission of Christ, priest, prophet and king, the lay faithful have an active part to play in the life and activity of the Church... Strengthened by their active participation in the liturgical life of their community, they are eager to do their share in apostolic works of that community. They lead to the Church people who are perhaps far removed from it; they earnestly cooperate in presenting the Word of God, especially by means of catechetical instruction; and offer their special skills to make the care of souls and the administration of the temporal goods of the Church more efficient.'

"The entire mission of the Church, then, is concentrated and manifested in evangelization. Through the winding passages of history the Church has made her way under the grace and the command of Jesus Christ: 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation' (Mark 16:15) '...and lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age' (Matthew 28:20). 'To evangelize,' writes Paul VI, 'is the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her most profound identity.'..."

- Pope St. John Paul II, *Christifideles laici*, no. 33

GO DEEPER BY READING:

Pope St. John Paul II, [*Christifideles laici*](#), no. 33 - 34

A NOTE ON PLANNING FOR PHASE 2

Hopefully by this point you've received the Phase 2 Planning Guide from your diocesan mentor. This Planning Guide includes a blank template for a parish plan as well as an accompanying document that contains lots of ideas and resources you could choose from to help you fill out your plan. This guide is only meant to be helpful, so please just use it to the extent that it is helpful, but don't feel constrained or boxed in by it. Your starting point should still be your own prayerful discernment about what your parish needs most in order to make progress toward the general goals of phase 2.

EQUIPPING FOR MISSION

"Discipleship is a team sport. Family—both through our natural families, and our supernatural family through baptism—and communion with others is an essential ingredient to the Christian life. Not that it will be easy... it won't be. It is simple, but not easy. An encounter with family lived well is redeeming not because it's perfect, but because there's love and sacrifice in the midst of the mess. That's where healing is, especially if your experience of family has been painful in some way. And truly, if the mention of 'family' is painful for you, know this: God wants to break through and redeem that. The bond through baptism is real and deep—this family is not second best; not a consolation prize. Blood is thicker than water, but grace is thicker than blood. Lord, help me to see today how you're going to reveal yourself in my family." (Franciscan Friars of the Renewal)

Listen to the Poco a Poco podcast episode with
the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal: [Discipleship Is a Team Sport](#).

SEEKING HOLINESS

WHAT IS FORTITUDE?

"Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. 'The Lord is my strength and my song' (Psalm 118:14). 'In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world' (John 16:33)." (CCC 1808)

Listen to the *You Were Born For This* podcast, episode 101: [Got Courage?](#) Fr. Riccardo talks with Commander Kevin Haney (former US Navy fighter pilot) about the need for courage in our times.

How do you invest in your prayer life, so you are able to stay firm in difficulties and pursue the good?

What fears do you need to give over to God to be a better evangelizer?

With whom in your life do you need greater fortitude and courage so as to better share the good news of the gospel?

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

[Our Baptismal Call | Courage](#)

NOVEMBER 2021

Holy Mass | Charity

DECEMBER 2021

Reclaiming Sunday | Piety

JANUARY 2022

Daily Prayer | Hope

FEBRUARY 2022

Praying with Scripture | Wisdom

MARCH 2022

Self-Denial | Moderation

APRIL 2022

Monthly Confession | Humility

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.**