



ST. BERNARD'S PARISH

The Year of Discipleship

Welcome Ministry Leaders & Core Team Members

Reflection - Calling of Disciples: Luke 5:1-12





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1. Our purpose for coming together this evening....
2. Our Parish Theme: ***The Year of Discipleship***
3. Our Parish's mission with discipleship
4. What is the role of Ministries in Disciple making?



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Chris Stefanick Video: *Happiness*

(insert video)

Roundtable: What does a disciple look like today?



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What brings you joy?



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Why do we need to Evangelize?

- Only 30% of Americans who were raised Catholic are still practicing
- 10% of all adults in America are ex-Catholics
- Only 60% of Catholics believe in a personal God
- The fastest growing denomination is “None/Unaffiliated”
 - 1 in 6 American Adults will identify with this category
- 52% of Catholics have left the Church
 - 11% Reverts, 41% Non-practicing (Cultural/Ex-Catholics)
- Data gathered from Pew Research Center and analyzed by Sherry Wendell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*



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What is Evangelization?

- Telling others the Good News-the Saving works of Jesus Christ (Kerygma)
 - God loves us.
 - Sin separates us from God.
 - Jesus reconciles us to God.
 - Through the power of the Holy Spirit we must personally accept God's free gift of salvation in Jesus.



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Our Goal

To make *intentional disciples* with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, nourished by frequenting the sacraments, habitual personal prayer, on-going catechetical and spiritual formation and participating in the communal life of the parish.





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What is an Intentional Disciple?

- Someone who has made the conscious decision to “drop one’s nets” and follow Jesus Christ in the midst of his Church as an obedient disciple and to reorder one’s life accordingly
- See Luke 5:4-11
 - Imitate Peter, James and John
 - They dropped everything and followed Christ
- They nourish their commitment by:
 - Frequenting the Sacraments
 - Habitual personal prayer
 - On going catechetical and spiritual formation
 - Participating in the communal life of the parish/church





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Meet them where they are at...

- Intentional Disciple
- In the Thresholds of Conversion
 - Trust
 - Curiosity
 - Openness
 - Seeking
- Unchurched
 - Those who have not been evangelized or catechized who do not understand who is Jesus and His Church



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Thresholds of Conversion

- Trust:
 - Holds a positive association of Jesus Christ, His Church, a believer or something identifiably Christian
 - Not the same as an active faith
 - We need them to trust to move them closer to God
 - **Passive action**
- Curiosity:
 - Express interest in Jesus Christ and His Church
 - It can range from awareness to intense
 - **Passive Action**



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Thresholds of Conversion

- Openness:
 - Open to the **possibility** of a personal/spiritual change
 - Not a commitment to change
 - **Passive**
- Seeking
 - “The Dating with a Purpose Phase”
 - Actively seeking God who is calling them
 - Seeking to know if they can commit to His Church
 - **ACTIVE**



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Living out discipleship in our lives & the fruit of discipleship

1. Using our different charisms, gifts & talents to build the kingdom
2. Participating in the Missionary Mandate of the Church
 - How are we bringing people closer to Christ?

What is a disciple & how am I living it out?



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Practical Applications For Your Ministry

What is your ministries' mission?

(or, what is your purpose, goal and/or objective)



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Practical Applications For Your Ministry

Is your ministries' mission aligned with our Parish mission & vision?

Parish Mission Statement

Expressing our love of Jesus Christ through the Eucharist, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and by living the will of the Father, we gather as one family, rich in culture and tradition, willing to share our gifts with all, and working together as we journey to the kingdom of God.



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Practical Applications For Your Ministry

Is your ministries' mission aligned with our Parish Mission & Vision?

Keep In Mind...

In addition to attending Mass, supplemental spiritual enrichment and formation is being provided through your ministry



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How is your ministries' mission aligned with our Parish Mission & Vision?

Parish Vision

STEWARDSHIP

FAMILY

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

SOCIAL JUSTICE

NEW EVANGELIZATION

SCHOOL

YOUTH MINISTRY

ACCOMODATING GROWTH OF PARISH



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How do we live discipleship in our ministries?

1. Spiritual Growth – Ongoing Formation

- Group retreats
- Attending events as a group that support spiritual growth (Reboot, Lenten Mission, St. Bernard Feast Day Celebration, etc.)

2. Service to Parish & Church

- Spiritual Works of Mercy...



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How do we live discipleship in our ministries?

Works of Mercy

THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- 1. Feed the hungry.*
- 2. Give drink to the thirsty.*
- 3. Clothe the naked.*
- 4. Shelter the homeless.*
- 5. Visit the sick.*
- 6. Visit the imprisoned.*
- 7. Bury the dead.*

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- 1. Counsel the doubtful.*
- 2. Instruct the ignorant.*
- 3. Admonish sinners.*
- 4. Comfort the afflicted.*
- 5. Forgive offenses.*
- 6. Bear wrongs patiently.*
- 7. Pray for the living and the dead.*



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How do we live discipleship in our ministries?

3. Fellowship

- Are we helping to build relationships, or is our ministry task driven?
- Do we encourage getting to know others within our ministry?

4. Leadership Development

- Avoid leadership burn-out, rotate leadership, develop succession planning
- Have a Spiritual Core Leader – Include a spiritual component to your meetings



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- 1. What activities does our Core Team need to change/do in our meetings to live discipleship?***
- 2. What activities do our Ministry Meetings need to change/do to live discipleship?***
- 3. How are we forming the people in our ministries?***
- 4. Are we task oriented or relationship oriented?***



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Growth of Parish & Ministries

How are you growing your ministry?

1. Is your ministry growing or shrinking?
2. Average annual parish growth rate is 5% or approx. 375 families
3. Do you have a marketing plan for your ministry?
 - Bulletin, parish website, parish Facebook page, parish-wide email, testimony at Mass, table outside after Mass, personal invitation/awareness



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Thank you for your continued support of our Parish

TASK

1. Set 3 short-term goals (6 months) for your ministry
2. Set 3 long-term goals (1 year) for your ministry

Please email your goals to

Mikayla Anderson: manderson@st-bernards.org

Steve Arena: sarena@st-bernards.org