

Nurturing the Soil:
The Mission Essentials to become an Evangelizing Parish

Business Office Forum
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Why Do We Evangelize?

Saint Pope Paul VI stated the Church
“exists in order to evangelize,
that is to say in order to preach and
teach,
to be the channel of the gift of grace,
to reconcile sinners with God,
and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in
the Mass, which is the memorial of his
death and glorious Resurrection.”



“EVANGELIZATION
is the mission of the Church,
not just of a few, but my,
your, our mission.”

— Pope Francis

How do we do we become an Evangelizing Parish?



Servant Leadership

- How can our parish community help you and your family live out your faith in the world?
- After everyone is finished at your table, please share your answers.
- After all are done sharing, I will ask for volunteers to share?



Jesus, the Model Servant Leader

- Jesus submitted His own life to sacrificial service under the will of His Father (Luke 22:42), and he sacrificed his life freely out of service for others (John 10:30).
- He came to serve (Matthew 20:28) although He was God's son and was thus more powerful than any other leader in the world.
- He healed the sick (Mark 7:31-37), drove out demons (Mark 5:1-20), was recognized as teacher and Lord (John 13:13), and had power over the wind and the sea and even over death (Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 9:18-26).

The Servant Leader

- From the teaching and example of Jesus Christ we learn that being a servant leader in the most general sense means being:
 - A voluntary servant, who submits themselves to a higher purpose, which is beyond their personal interests or the interests of others,
 - A leader who uses the power that is entrusted to them to serve others,
 - A servant who, out of love, serves others needs before their own,
 - A teacher who teaches their followers, in word and deed, how to become servant leaders themselves.

The Christian Servant Leader

- Applying these considerations of Jesus as a role model for Christian leaders we can see that, from a Biblical perspective, a servant leader is a person, who is:
 - Christ-centered in all aspects of life (a voluntary servant of Christ)
 - Committed to serve the needs of others before their own,
 - Courageous to lead with power and love as an expression of serving,
 - Consistently developing others into servant leaders, and
 - Continually inviting feedback from those that they want to serve in order to grow towards the ultimate servant leader, Jesus Christ.

Why is this Important to my Parish?

- We live in an age of adaptive challenge.
 - The problem is often unknown or hard to identify; tied to deeper patterns or dynamics and requires learning.
 - The solution is unknown, which again requires learning.
- Adaptive challenges are the hardest challenges because they are complex; even the problem is not fully understood. There are no solutions, only progress.
- One of the biggest leadership mistakes is treating an adaptive challenge as a technical one. Leadership requires knowing when it is time to solve and when is it time to learn.
- Pathway forward - An evangelizing parish takes advantage of a variety of listening forums to learn from those closest to the adaptive challenge and learn from them to consider opportunities for evangelization.

Do you have a GPS for Your Parish?

- If your parish church burns down, why should it be rebuilt?
- After everyone is finished at your table, please share your answers.
- After all are done sharing, I will ask for volunteers to share?



Building the Foundation

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

Matthew 7:24-27 NABRE

Don't Forget About Your Parish Culture

- Parish culture is more powerful than any plan.
- Culture is how we do things in this place and time OR this is the way we expect things to be done.
- Every parish has a unique culture and is never like any other parish.
- Parish culture becomes the by-product of the things we do, say, and believe.
- Setting a plan by itself will not be enough to change culture.

Culture Change is Hard and Slow Work

- Changing culture is very difficult.
- What do you need to do to begin to change culture each parish and the Diocese need to have clarity and single-minded focus to:
 - Mission - WHY you exist (Diocese = Sowing God's Spirit)
 - Vision - WHERE you are going (Diocese = Cultivating Connections in Christ)
 - Strategy - HOW you will get there
- A vision built on Catholic mission drives culture change.
- A program, plan, event, or curriculum, although needed, in and of itself will not drive culture change.

Pathway Forward

- While working on defining/refining your mission and vision, work together with leadership and essential volunteers on goals for your parish community.
- Goals give a sense of direction and purpose, promote enthusiasm, facilitate effective operation, reduce needless conflict, and give a clear understanding of what is expected.
- With out goals we just have activity, and we cannot be certain that a predetermined level of performance has been actually achieved.
- Consider employee goals aligned with the parish goals. These goals should be employee initiated and supervisor discerned.

Philanthropy and Mission

- How can you advance mission if I give you a check for \$10,000?
- After everyone is finished at your table, please share your answers.
- After all are done sharing, I will ask for volunteers to share?



Parish Mission Renewal and Impact

- Now is a perfect time to consider what missed opportunities you are experiencing that prevents you from moving more into mission.
- We will be looking for bold and innovative ideas to fund to share Jesus' Gospel and minister to God's people.
- Although we hope all awarded grants succeed, we know some will not. However, the impact of investing in local faith communities will move engagement as pastors with parish leadership respond to adaptive challenges while forging new paths for encountering Jesus.
- Path Forward - How are you communicating pastoral impact because of the generosity of your parish community?