

Parish Pastoral Council
“EVANGELIIZNG
LEADERS”

Evangelization is fundamental to any parish
response to the call of God.

Pastoral Councils are to help parishes become the
MISSIONARY COMMUNITIES THEY ARE
CALLED TO BE...

From Maintenance to Mission

Mission is the very essence of a Catholic parish because parishes are extensions of the universal mission mandate given each bishop from the Apostles

Each parish community has a unique mission.

The essential mission of every parish is evangelization. Enacting Jesus command:
“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations,...(Matt 28:19)

Pastoral Councils
“Visionary Planners”

Say what the community is basically about

Help indicate the priorities of the parish

Utilize church documents, i.e., “Go and Make Disciples.”

Works with **staff** who are responsible for the everyday workings of the parish

Collaborates with parish **leadership** in all areas of Ministry

Helps **Parish community** see themselves as the most important asset...

Is always growing, serving, celebrating, inviting, and sharing.

An so, The Pastoral Council

Helps define the vision and mission

Works with staff to support Parish leadership in attaining the vision

The Parish...

- is a missionary community of disciples
- is called to bring Good News to the World
- is called to invite all to Christ's table
- is called to serve the world

Seven Elements of Parish Life

The Mission and Ministry of Christ

Evangelization

Worship

Word

Community

Christian Service

Stewardship

Leadership

Parish Pastoral Planning must include strategies to help parishes:

- recognize their capacities to evangelize
- make welcome and invitation hallmarks of their parish community
- be consistent in invitation to those without a church
- be consistent in invitation to inactive Catholics

Parishes do not have the primary task of serving the needs of their members

Rather parishes have the primary task of serving their members so that these members can reach out and serve the world

Evangelization...

- is about **making disciples**, people who know God through Jesus Christ and live in the Spirit of Jesus Christ
 - asks us to live as **disciples** and call others to discipleship
- Disciple** has become the dominant metaphor of Catholic life
- Discipleship** is the call of all the baptized

The **Four Dimensions** of Discipleship

- 1) Disciples live in the **Word of God**
- 2) Disciples **worship and pray**
- 3) Disciples share **community**
- 4) Disciples give themselves in **service** to their brothers and sisters – and to the world

“Evangelization means bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself.”

The Seven Dimensions of Evangelization

- Kingdom of God, **renewal of humanity**
- Witness, **living our faith**
- Proclamation, **sharing and inviting**
- Inner adherence, **personal conversion**
- Entry into the community, **engaged**
- Acceptance of the signs, **sacramental life**
- Apostolic Initiative, **inviting others**

Evangelization is rooted in a life-long call to live in a community of faith as a disciple

Evangelism is often viewed as a personal experience of “being saved” without reference to a community of faith

“Go and Make Disciples”

“Yet our relationship with Jesus is found in our relationship with the community of Jesus – the church. The way to Christ is through the community in which he lives... Jesus is present in and among his disciples, the People of God”.

Gallup Study

Three Types of members

Engaged – Connected, Spiritually Committed, Inviting, Giving (time as well as finances) 16%

Not Engaged – Attend, but not connected, connection is social, Give moderately, Spend little time volunteering 49%

Disengaged – “Chreasters”, registered, but not known by pastor, could have physical presence, but psychological absence 35%

Resources:

Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop “Doing Church” and “Start Being the Church Again”, Albert L. Winseman D. MIN

Living Your Strengths, Winseman, Clifton, Liesveld

Online recourse:

www.allaboutchurchengagement.com

Sister Act – A possibility?

Look for the Dimensions of

Evangelization

Catholic Evangelization...

Springs from our rootedness in God's **Word...**

The Word is spoken to all the world

And

our sharing in the **Eucharist...**

The bread is broken, the blood is shed "for you...and for all"

Evangelization is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She 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." ¹²

Evangelization as a broad ministry is developed
in three basic directions:

- 1) The deepening and **renewal** of our own faith
- 2) **Sharing** faith with others
- 3) **Bringing** our faith to bear upon the world

Personal **evangelization skills**:

- Knowing our own story of faith
- Recognizing ways in which people are asking us to share our faith
- Learning to express our faith from our experience
- Creating opportunities to be open about faith

(Share a time you gave witness to your faith)

Pastoral Councils Are Called to Evangelize...

The Church is born of the evangelizing activity of Jesus and the twelve. It is the normal, desired, most immediate and visible fruit of activity...*Evangelii Nuntiandi* (on Evangelization in the Modern World), 11. Pope John Paul VI, 1975

The Evangelizing Community

- Celebrates the Story (Liturgy and Prayer)
- Tells the Story (preaching that connects life and scripture)
- Is the Story (Witness, social and pastoral ministries)
- Welcomes and offer hospitality
- Invites responsible participation
- Reaches out to the un-gospeled
- Reaches out to the un-chruched
- Calls all people to discipleship

- Parishes can build upon what they are already doing – scripture sharing, catechumenate, outreach to parents, retreats and missions, renewal movements
- Parishes need to expand what they are already doing – explore new ideas

“Go and Make Disciples”

Goal One

To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.

What can the Pastoral Council do to make our joy in and our enthusiasm for our faith more evident?

Using the seven elements of parish life as a lens choose one area to answer this question.

Go and Make Disciples

Goal Two

To invite all people in the United States, whatever their social and cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith.

To whom in our local community should we be reaching out?

Name one way the Pastoral Council is assisting your community in living out this goal?

Go and Make Disciples

Goal Three

To foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society, so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

How is your Pastoral Council assisting the parish in actualizing this goal?

Evangelization is fundamental to any parish response to the call of God.

Since Pastoral Councils are to help parishes become the **MISSIONARY COMMUNITIES** THEY ARE CALLED TO BE...

Within your Parish Pastoral Plan name the specific goals that are directly related to **Evangelization** (or) what goals need to be developed?

Reflection Day for all Ministries

Gather/Prayer

General Session – “Go and Make Disciples”

Ministry groupings:

- Enthusiasm for faith
- Sharing faith/outreach
- Transformation of the World

Closing Prayer

Pastoral Councils need to actively dispel the myths of Evangelization

“Evangelization”



“Messenger of God”

What did you hear this evening?

What will you bring back to your parish?

What would you like to know more about ?