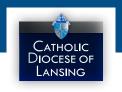
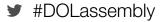


# Diocesan Assembly Participant Program



Nov. 19-20, 2014 St. Mary Magdalen Parish Brighton, MI



## **ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL 2014:**

## EQUIPPING THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH



## **WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19**

8:00 a.m.	Doors open				
9:00 a.m.	Opening Mass with Bishop Boyea				
9:45 a.m.	Message from the Bishop				
10:05 a.m.	Break				
10:35 a.m.	Basics of Small Group Sharing (Deacon Ralph Poyo)  Session 1: Kerygma and Intercession (Sister Ann Shields)				
12:00 p.m.	Lunch - Sponsored by ParishSOFT				
1:15 p.m.	Session 2: Intentional Discipleship (Dr. Dan Keating)				
3:00 p.m.	Break				
3:30 p.m.	Session 3: Basics of Evangelization (Deacon Ralph Poyo)				
5:30 p.m.	<b>Bishop's Banquet</b> – Sponsored by the Kellie and Marilyn Dean Family, Deacon Dan and Dolly Foley, the Dan and Lori Hall Family and John and Mary Beth Pirich				
7:00 p.m.	Session 4: Night Prayer, Adoration and Consecration of the Diocese with Bishop Boyea				

## THURSDAY, NOV. 20

8:00 a.m.	Doors open
8:30 a.m.	Morning prayer
9:00 a.m.	Session 5: Encounter Opportunities (Deacon Ralph Poyo)
10:30 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Session 6: Discipleship Groups (Claudia Sailsman and Ileana Iglesias)

12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b> – Sponsored by Black and Indian Mission Office
	and Allen and Susan Jensen

1:45 p.m.	Session 7: Welcoming Environment
	(Father White and Brian Crook)

**3:15 p.m.** Parish Caucuses

**4:00 p.m.** Closing Mass with Bishop Boyea

# **KEY POINTS**FROM THE BISHOP'S MESSAGE





Bishop Boyea's vision for the Diocese of Lansing is a direct response to the call from our popes for a New Evangelization and furthers key elements of the Pastoral Plan promulgated to the Church of Lansing by Bishop Mengeling in 2001. To deepen and intensify our authentic identity as a Church: the body of Christ, living in communion of faith, hope, and love as a worshipping church, praying church, evangelizing church and serving church.

In this Assembly, we will address the first of three groups of people described in the Pastoral Letter—The Household of Faith. (The Lost Sheep and The Court of the Gentiles will be addressed in assemblies in 2016 and 2018 respectively). Over the next two years, as we approach The Lost Sheep Assembly in the fall of 2016, we will be focusing on equipping the household of faith for a New Evangelization.

In order to best facilitate the work of evangelization in our parishes, we need to be as prepared as possible to receive the influx of new and returning members. Therefore, Bishop Boyea is asking every parish to equip their communities by focusing on four main things:

- 1. Forming an Intercessory Prayer Ministry to pray for pastoral initiatives.
- 2. Forming a permanent and structured Discipleship Group Ministry within the parish.
- 3. Offer at least two Encounter Opportunities every year.
- 4. Work on creating a more Welcoming Environment in your parish.

These four elements of parish life will help support individuals in their walk with the Lord and better ensure the retention of our new and returning members.

"... if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be 'the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.' This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach. worship and celebration."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) #28)

# HOW TO FACILITATE SMALL GROUP SHARING



NOTES

The goal behind small group sharing is to share in the journey of following Christ. If members come prepared to share openly and honestly, they will find an amazing group. If the members remain guarded, keeping their walls up and their masks on, the group will not last long. Small groups test authentic faith because each member must ultimately place their trust in Jesus as they share their private journey. (For our time in this Assembly, we also want to use these various conversation opportunities for training in certain aspects of Evangelization and Discipleship.)

**Critical Rule for All Forms of Sharing – Confidentiality:** Whatever is said within the faith sharing group stays within the faith sharing group.

#### **Circle or Table Conversations - Rules for Sharing Groups:**

- 1. Pick a facilitator (for this conference, one will be picked for you)
- 2. Open by inviting the Holy Spirit to lead the group. This is not an opportunity for the facilitator to give "another" talk. The facilitator is to ask the Holy Spirit to guide them as they lead the discussion.
- 3. Confidentiality
- 4. The facilitator's job is to keep the conversation moving by lovingly encouraging quiet members to share and curbing outspoken members, so that all feel welcomed to share their thoughts and experiences.
- 5. For the purpose of this conference, attempt to come to consensus when an answer from the group is requested from the stage.
- 6. Close in prayer.

# KERYGMA & INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY (SR. ANN SHIELDS)





Sister Ann Shields, SGL, is an internationally noted conference and retreat speaker and author of numerous books on Catholic spirituality. She currently hosts the popular daily radio program Food for the Journey. Sister Ann is a member of The Servants of God's Love, a charismatic religious community established in the Diocese of Lansing, and is a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Evangelization is based on the four points of the Kerygma.

## Kerygma – The basic Gospel Message:

- 1. God loves us
- 2. We have sinned
- 3. Jesus has reconciled us to the Father
- 4. We must make a choice

Intercession – The success of our ministry depends on the action of God. It begins, is sustained and ends with Him. Therefore, our work is dependent on prayer. Every pastor should have an intercessory team dedicated solely to praying for him and the initiatives of the parish.

"The Church urgently needs the deep breath of prayer, and to my great joy groups devoted to prayer and **intercession**, the prayerful reading of God's word and the perpetual adoration of the Eucharist are growing at every level of ecclesial life."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #262)

NOTES			

#### **TASK #1**

Organize an Intercessory Prayer Team

(see parish binder, page 3)

8

MOTEC

# SESSION 2 DISCIPLESHIP (DR. DANIEL KEATING)





Dr. Daniel Keating, Fellow of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, is associate professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Dr. Keating has been involved in student ministry for more than 25 years and lectures to students in the United States and Europe. He lives in Ann Arbor, where he is a member of the Servants of the Word. a lay brotherhood dedicated to the work of evangelization and Christian unity.

The Great Commission, "Go and Make Disciples" is at the core of everything we do.

Discipleship is based on a decision to make Jesus Christ the Lord of every aspect of one's life. It requires training and accountability, but each person must be allowed to enter where they are and move at their own pace.

Discipleship is based on an encounter with Christ. Often times, our first and subsequent encounters with Him happen in our brokenness and our surrender to His Lordship.

Discipleship always is missionary. Pope Francis has called us to be "missionary disciples."

#### **Basic elements of discipleship:**

- 1. Conversion/Prayer
- 2. Catechesis/Study
- 3. Community/Parish Involvement
- 4. Apostolate/Service and Evangelization

TOTES			
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"The disciple is ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accepting martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ, yet the goal is not to make enemies but to see God's word accepted and its capacity for liberation and renewal revealed."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #24)

NOTES

# BASICS OF EVANGELIZATION (DEACON RALPH POYO)





Deacon Ralph Poyo is the founder of New Evangelization Ministries, whose mission is to build stronger Catholic parishes that will lead hearts to Christ. Deacon Ralph speaks at conferences nationwide to share his conversion. story and help parishes with training and planning to help them discern the Holy Spirit's will for their renewal. New Evangelization Ministries in Steubenville, Ohio, offers a variety of services to parishes, including parish leadership training, parish staff retreats and specialized seminars.

**Purpose –** To lead an individual to encounter the living God, in their heart, through reception of the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Evangelization Process –**

Evangelization is more than a buzz word or a new trend in the Church. It is an actual process with a very specific goal to achieve. Like a young man who creates a goal to marry a woman so, too, does God desire to enter into this intimate union with each of us. This procedure requires a clear understanding of the end (union with God), steps to journey through (process) and the unification of two wills (vows).

## Stages of Evangelization:

- Pre-evangelization To remove all obstacles that could prevent the proclamation and reception of the Gospel. (Relational Ministry)
- 2. Evangelization Taking them through the process that unites their hearts with God. (See steps below)
- 3. Post-Evangelization Specific discipleship training that equips them with their new identity, greater love and understanding of God, training on evangelizing others and grounding in the spiritual disciplines that enables them to become mature disciples. (Discipleship Training)

#### **Steps of Evangelization:**

- 1. Proclamation of the Gospel (Work of the Church-Disciple) (Acts 2:14-36)
- 2. Evokes a response from the heart (Work of the Holy Spirit) (Acts 2:37)
- 3. Articulate Required Response Lead them to proper disposition of the heart (CCC1131) (Work of the Church) (Acts 2:38)
  - Repentance The prophetic call to return to the truth of God – Stop acting like we're God and live according to his truth.
  - Be Baptized Uniting ourselves in Christ's Baptism (LUKE 12:50) Give our lives completely to Christ.
- Decision Point Invite them to make a decision (Work of the Church)
   (ACTS 2:38-40)
- 5. Lead them to open their hearts, to pray, to the sacraments...(Work of the Church) (Acts 2:41)
- 6. Look for the Evidence (Work of the Church to determine the Spirit's indwelling)

  (ACTS 2:43-47) (MARK 16:16-18) (ACTS 8:14-17)

## Basic rules for sharing your testimony

- 1. Before Christ
- 2. Encounter with Christ
- 3. Post encounter

"In fidelity to the example of the Master, it is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear. The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded."

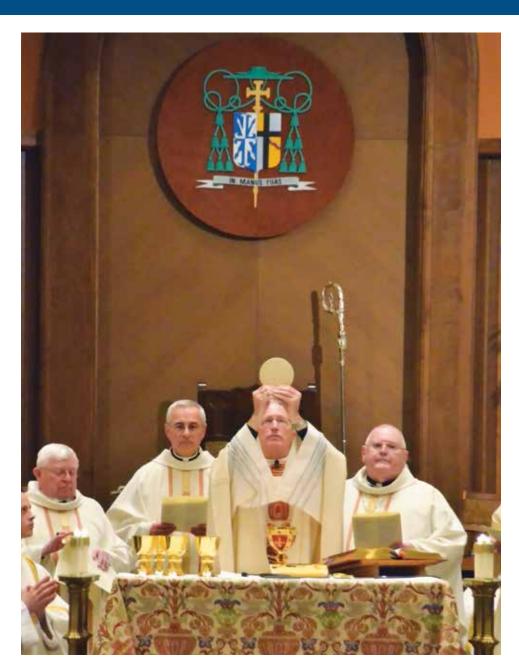
(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium #23*)

"The joy of evangelizing always arises from grateful remembrance: it is a grace which we constantly need to implore. The apostles never forgot the moment when Jesus touched their hearts: 'It was about four o'clock in the afternoon'" (Jn. 1:39)

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #13)

# NIGHT PRAYER, ADORATION AND CONSECRATION OF THE DIOCESE WITH BISHOP BOYEA





"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #3)

"In order to evangelize the world, we need experts in celebration, adoration and contemplation of the Holy Eucharist."

(St. John Paul II - Message for World Mission April 19, 2004)

"Evangelization **through** the Eucharist, **in** the Eucharist and **from** the Eucharist: these are three inseparable aspects of how the Church lives the mystery of Christ and fulfils her mission of communicating it to all people."

(St. John Paul II - Eucharistic Congress in Seville 1993)

## **NIGHT PRAYER**

God, + come to my assistance.

- Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

– as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Alleluia.

Examination of conscience

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

#### **HYMN**

#### **PSALMODY**

Antiphon 1: Lord God, be my refuge and my strength.

#### Psalm 31:1-6

Trustful prayer in adversity Father, into your hands I commend my spirit (Luke 23:46).

Side 1: In you, O Lord, I take refuge.

Let me never be put to shame. In your justice, set me free,

hear me and speedily rescue me.

Side 2: Be a rock of refuge for me,

a mighty stronghold to save me, for you are my rock, my stronghold.

For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

Side 1: Release me from the snares they have hidden

for you are my refuge, Lord.

Into your hands I commend my spirit. It is you who will redeem me, Lord.

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit:

Side 1: As it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be for ever. Amen.

All: Lord God, be my refuge and my strength.

Antiphon 2: Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord.

#### Psalm 130

A cry from the depths

He will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

Side 1: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,

Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

Side 2: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,

Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:

for this we revere you.

Side 1: My soul is waiting for the Lord,

I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. Let the watchman count on daybreak

and Israel on the Lord.

Side 2: Because with the Lord there is mercy

and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem

from all its iniquity.

Side 1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit:

Side 2: As it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be for ever. Amen.

All: Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord.

#### READING

**Ephesians 4:26-27** 

Bishop Boyea

#### RESPONSORY

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

- Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth.

- I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

- Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

HOMILY

#### SILENT ADORATION

#### **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

**Antiphon** Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

#### Luke 2:29-32

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

+ Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon: Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

BENEDICTION

CONSECRATION OF THE DIOCESE

ANTIPHON IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

# THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

#### MORNING PRAYER

God, + come to my assistance.

- Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

- as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

#### **HYMN**

**PSALMODY** Be Seated

Antiphon 1: Awake, lyre and harp, with praise let us awake the dawn.

#### Psalm 57

Morning prayer in affliction

This psalm tells of our Lord's passion (St. Augustine).

Side 1: Have mercy on me, God, have mercy

for in you my soul has taken refuge. In the shadow of your wings I take refuge till the storms of destruction pass by.

Side 2: I call to you God the Most High,

to you who have always been my help. May you send from heaven and save me

and shame those who assail me.

Side 1: O God, send your truth and your love.

Side 2: My soul lies down among lions,

who would devour the sons of men. Their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongue a sharpened sword.

Side 1: O God, arise above the heavens;

may your glory shine on earth!

Side 2: They laid a snare for my steps

my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my path but fell in it themselves.

Side 1: My heart is ready, O God,

my heart is ready.

I will sing, I will sing your praise.

Awake, my soul; awake, lyre and harp, I will awake the dawn.

Side 2: I will thank you, Lord, among the peoples,

among the nations I will praise you for your love reaches to the heavens

and your truth to the skies.

Side 1: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit.

Side 2: As it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon 1: Awake, lyre and harp, with praise let us awake the dawn.

Antiphon 2: My people, says the Lord, will be filled with my blessings.

#### Jeremiah 31:10-14

The happiness of a people who have been redeemed

Jesus was to die...to gather all of God's scattered children into one fold (John 11:51).

Side 1: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,

proclaim it on distant coasts, and say:

He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together,

he guards them as a shepherd his flock.

Side 2: The Lord shall ransom Jacob.

he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror.

Side 1: Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion,

they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings:

The grain, the wine, and the oil,

the sheep and the oxen;

They themselves shall be like watered gardens,

never again shall they languish.

Side 2: Then the virgins shall make merry and dance,

and young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into joy,

Side 1: I will console and gladden them after their sorrows.

I will lavish choice portions upon the priests, and my people shall be filled with my blessings,

says the Lord.

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit.

Side 1: As it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon 2: My people, says the Lord, will be filled with my blessings.

Antiphon 3: The Lord is great and worthy to be praised in the city of our God.

#### Psalm 48

Thanksgiving for the people's deliverance.

He took me up a high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, God's holy city (Revelation 21:10)

Side 1: The Lord is great and worthy to be praised

in the city of our God.

His holy mountain rises in beauty,

the joy of all the earth.

Side 2: Mount Zion, true pole of the earth,

the Great King's city!

God, in the midst of its citadels, has shown himself its stronghold.

Side 1: For the kings assembled together,

together they advanced.

They saw; at once they were astounded:

dismayed, they fled in fear.

Side 2: A trembling seized them there,

like the pangs of birth.

By the east wind you have destroyed

the ships of Tarshish.

Side 1: As we have heard, so we have seen

in the city of our God,

in the city of the Lord of hosts which God upholds for ever.

Side 2: O God, we ponder your love

within your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name reaches the ends of the earth.

Side 1: With justice your right hand is filled.

Mount Zion rejoices;

the people of Judah rejoice at the sight of your judgments.

Side 2: Walk through Zion, walk all round it;

count the number of its towers.

Review all its ramparts, examine its castles,

Side 1: that you may tell the next generation

that such is our God,

our God for ever and always.

It is he who leads us.

Side 2: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit.

Side 1: As it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon 3: The Lord is great and worthy to be praised in the city of

our God.

READING Isaiah 66:1-2

Thus says the Lord:

The heavens are my throne, and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house can you build for me;

what is to be my resting place?

My hand made all these things

when all of them came to be, says the Lord.

This is the one whom I approve;

the lowly and afflicted man who trembles at my Word.

#### RESPONSORY

From the depth of my heart, I cry to you; hear me, Lord.

- From the depth of my heart, I cry to you; hear me, Lord. I will do what you desire

- hear me, Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

- From the depth of my heart, I cry to you; hear me, Lord.

#### BENEDICTUS

Stand

Antiphon: Let us serve the Lord in holiness, and he will save us

from our enemies.

+ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \* from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \* and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \* to set us free from the hands of our enemies.

Free to worship him without fear, \* holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \* for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \* by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \* the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \* and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon: Let us serve the Lord in holiness, and he will save us

from our enemies.

#### **INTERCESSIONS**

The Lord Jesus Christ has given us the light of another day. In return we thank him as we cry out:

#### Lord, bless us and bring us close to you.

You offered yourself in sacrifice for our sins, - accept our intentions and our work today.

#### Lord, bless us and bring us close to you.

You bring us joy by the light of another day, - let the morning star rise in our hearts.

#### Lord, bless us and bring us close to you.

Give us strength to be patient with those we meet today, - and so imitate you.

#### Lord, bless us and bring us close to you.

Make us aware of your mercy this morning, Lord - and let your strength be our delight.

#### Lord, bless us and bring us close to you.

Our Father...

#### **PRAYER**

All-powerful and ever-living God, at morning, noon, and evening we pray; cast out from our hearts the darkness of sin, and bring us to the light of your truth.

Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

#### DISMISSAL

# ENCOUNTER OPPORTUNITIES (DEACON RALPH POYO)





Deacon Ralph Poyo is the founder of New Evangelization Ministries, whose mission is to build stronger Catholic parishes that will lead hearts to Christ. Deacon Ralph speaks at conferences nationwide to share his conversion story and help parishes with training and planning to help them discern the Holy Spirit's will for their renewal. New Evangelization Ministries in Steubenville. Ohio, offers a variety of services to parishes, including parish leadership training, parish staff retreats and specialized seminars.

## An example of some Encounter Opportunities:

Cursillo, Alpha for Catholics, Life in the Spirit Seminar, Kairos, Koinonia, TEC (To Encounter Christ) Retreat, ChristLife Evangelization Process, etc.

## Basic criteria for an encounter opportunity:

- 1. Hear the Kerygma proclaimed
- 2. Discuss and (re)consider life in Christ
- 3. Prayerfully respond to it

Encounter opportunities provide a venue in every parish for dynamic evangelization to occur.

## They are a place to:

- 1. Renew one's own faith (The Household of Faith)
- Rediscover one's faith (The Lost Sheep)
- 3. Discover faith (The Court of the Gentiles)

We cannot assume that just because someone is Catholic they have made a decision to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives. Encounter Opportunities provide the space within the parish for people to make that decision. That is one reason these opportunities are vital to the work of the New Evangelization. God works with our freewill. When someone makes a decision to follow Him, He then is able to do great things in their life.

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #1)

"Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?"

(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium #9*)

#### **TASK #2**

Offer encounter opportunities at least twice a year

(see parish binder, page 23)

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (CLAUDIA SAILSMAN AND ILEANA IGLESIAS)







Ileana Iglesias is a native of Havana, Cuba, and is the parish ministry coordinator at St. Edward Catholic Church in Pembroke Pines, Fla. As part of the international organization, she is one of two executive team leaders representing the United States and cell secretary for parish evangelizing cells in Pembroke Pines, Fla. Ileana has been actively working with small groups for the past 16 years.

Claudia Sailsman OCDS, is part of the cell (small group) executive team at St. Edward Catholic Church in Pembroke Pines, Fla. and a U.S. Promoter for parish evangelizing cells for the international organization. She has been leading a small faith group in her home for the past 25 years.

"In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. **It is a community of communities**, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, **to make them environments of living communion and participation**, and to make them completely mission-oriented."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #28)

#### **TASK #3**

Form a Parish-Based Discipleship Group Ministry

(see parish binder, page 17)

Discipleship groups create a space in the parish for people to share their faith and grow together in discipleship. They also are a place where people are evangelized. It is important that people who have participated in encounter opportunities are invited to discipleship groups soon after the encounter event.

As small group people, we evangelize as we go. We each try to bring the love of Jesus to people, as we meet them. This normally is a one-to-one evangelizing, which we call *oikos* or friendship, evangelization. Pope Francis seems to have something similar in mind when he says that opportunities to evangelize 'can happen unexpectedly, and in any place, in the home or city, on the street, during work, on a journey. (Evangelii Gaudium 127) He explains how this one to one evangelization can most fruitfully be undertaken by (Evangelii Gaudium 128):

- 1. Building relationships with others based on respect and gentleness.
- 2. Sharing conversation, and listening to the other person talk about joys and concerns.
- 3. Sharing with humility Pope Francis says that being humble helps us share the burdens of others. (Twitter Nov. 4, 2014)
- 4. Sharing faith directly or through a story, or we may be led by the Holy Spirit in a certain direction In other words, we are to be open to wisdom and words that the Holy Spirit wishes to give us.
- 5. Beginning and ending in prayer together.

#### **Encouragement must come from the pastor:**

- 1. From the pulpit
- 2. In the bulletin
- 3. In one-on-one meetings

Discipleship group facilitators require training and on-going formation.

HOILO	

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NOTES

# WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT (FR. WHITE AND BRIAN CROOK)







Father Michael White is pastor of Church of the Nativity in the North Baltimore area of Maryland. He is the author of the book, *Rebuilt*, which is all about "Awakening the faithful, reaching the lost and making church matter." The book tells the story of bringing his parish back to life and discusses how to grow a healthy Catholic parish. Father Michael is available to speak at parish and diocesan events.

Brian Crook is the Director of Missions at Church of the Nativity. He grew up in Timonium, Maryland and has witnessed Church of the Nativity's transformation to a thriving parish through the years. He received his bachelor's degree from Furman University and has served on staff at Nativity for the past six years. Brian oversees Nativity's local and global Missions strategic partnerships as well as leads the Adult Discipleship department.

"The Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #24)

#### TASK #4

Focus on elements in your parish that could enhance the welcoming environment

(see parish binder, page 9)

#### An evangelizing community ...

- 1. Knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, He has loved us first (CF. 1 JN4:19). Therefore, we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcasts.
- 2. Gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives. It bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the "smell of the sheep" and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.
- 3. Also is supportive, standing by people every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be. It is familiar with patient expectation and apostolic endurance. Evangelization consists mostly of patience and disregard for constraints of time. Faithful to the Lord's gift, also it bears fruit.
- 4. Always is concerned with fruit, because the Lord wants her to be fruitful. It cares for the grain and does not grow impatient at the weeds. The sower, when he sees weeds sprouting among the grain, does not grumble or overreact. He or she finds a way to let the word take flesh in a particular situation and bear fruits of new life, however imperfect or incomplete these may appear. The disciple is ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accepting martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ, yet the goal is not to make enemies but to see God's word accepted and its capacity for liberation and renewal revealed.
- 5. Is filled with joy; it always knows how to rejoice. It celebrates every small victory and every step forward in the work of evangelization. Evangelization with joy becomes beauty in the liturgy, as part of our daily concern to spread goodness. The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving.

Some advice for those doing ministry in the Church from Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium:* 

"It is striking that even some who clearly have solid doctrinal and spiritual convictions frequently fall into a lifestyle which leads to an attachment to financial security, or to a desire for power or human glory at all cost, rather than giving their lives to others in mission. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary enthusiasm!"

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #80)

"Some fall into it because they throw themselves into unrealistic projects and are not satisfied simply to do what they reasonably can. Others, because they lack the patience to allow processes to mature; they want everything to fall from heaven. Others, because they are attached to a few projects or vain dreams of success. Others, because they have lost real contact with people and so depersonalize their work that they are more concerned with the road map than with the journey itself."

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #82)

Also, for a much longer exhortation, check out paragraphs 76-97 of *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*. Lots of great advice for those in ministry.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**



The 2014 Diocesan Assembly happened because of the many people who gave of their time, talent, and resources. With deep gratitude, we thank all of you for your presence and participation and especially acknowledge the following:

 Speakers and exhibitors whose preparation and presentations provided everyone with an inspiring vision for how to respond to the call for a New Evangelization in the Diocese of Lansing.

#### **Our Musicians**

#### **All our Liturgical Ministers**

#### **The Diocesan Evangelization Team**

- Ryan Richert from Outside the Box Ministries for providing invaluable services for programing, logistics and execution of the days.
- Announce the Gospel 2014 Diocesan Assembly Steering Committee members who helped make these two days a success!
- Deborah Amato, Michael Andrews, Jen Brown, Tony Delecki, Michael Diebold, Vince Gale, Margaret Grima, Deborah Hawley, Ron Landfair, George Landolt, Cynthia Larson, Patricia O'Hearn, Tom Pastula, Brian Pizzalato, Craig Pohl, Patrick Rinker, Brad Schmidt, Cynthia Vandecar, Lisa Weber, Sr. Rita Wenzlick

#### Special thanks to:

- Fr. David Howell and the staff of St. Mary Magdalen for opening up their space for us and being so helpful from beginning to end.
- **Our donors** whose generous contributions helped make our Diocesan Assembly possible.
- **Jen Brown and Brad Schmidt** for going above and beyond in sharing their gifts of conference planning and execution with the Diocese.
- FAITH Catholic for their many hours of consulting and creative services.
- Marybeth Hicks for serving as Co-Host of our Diocesan Assembly.
- Margaret Grima for gracefully handling the many details of this Assembly.
- **Deborah Hawley and the St. Francis Prayer Center** for donating flowers and for organizing the prayer efforts that helped cover this event with God's grace.

The **Holy Spirit** for being the true guide and leader of this event from start to continuing! To our Savior **Jesus Christ** who opened eternal life to the world and to our **Father** who loves us beyond imagination and comprehension. **To God be the glory now and forever!** 



## St. Mary Magdalen Parish Map

