



# Pastoral Ministry Plan for the Department of New Evangelization

**“Parishes Called to Be Holy, Fully Engaged, Fully Alive”**

**By Julianne Stanz**

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## **Acknowledgment**

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### **Members of the team include:**

Fr. Maximos Davies  
Sr. Marie Kolbe Zamora  
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Eden Foord  
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# **Mission:**

*Inspiring and equipping parishes in the New Evangelization to form disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.*

## **Vision Statement**

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock” (Rev. 3:20).*

Understanding that evangelization happens whenever one is encouraged to answer the abiding invitation of Christ, to repent and believe in the good news (evangelion, Mark 1:15) and so enter into the joy of the Lord (Matthew 25:3), the Department of New Evangelization of the Diocese of Green Bay will assist the Bishop, parishes and faithful of the Diocese of Green Bay in the following ways.

- 1.) Holy Engaged Parishes: We will assist parishes in recognizing and identifying how every aspect of parish life and ministry is an opportunity to go out into all the world and make disciples of all peoples (Matthew 28:19). It is primarily in the parish that God’s people are brought to new birth through water and the Spirit (John 3:5) and are thus, brought to eternal life in the Body and Blood of his Son (John 6:54). “The parish in and through all of its activities, should animate its members to become agents of the New Evangelization, witnessing through both their words and their lives”.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.) Fully Alive Disciples: The Department of New Evangelization will support Christian formation processes designed to help Catholics move from a sense of being merely consumers of religious services to being disciples of Christ (Matthew 28:19), concentrating especially on finding ways to foster the habitual practices and disciplines of moral transformation, prayer, fasting and almsgiving (cf. Matthew 6) for the sanctification of the world.

<sup>1</sup> XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, “Final List of Propositions.” *Holy See Press Office*, October 28th, 2012. <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-address-to-the-plenary-assembly-of-the-pontifical-council-for-promoting-the-new>

# Introduction:

Pope Francis has called “for a common commitment to a pastoral plan that recalls the essential and that is well centered on the essential, namely Jesus Christ. It is no use to be scattered in so many secondary or superfluous things, but to be concentrated on the fundamental reality, which is the encounter with Christ, with his mercy, with his love, and to love brothers as He loved us”.<sup>2</sup> Following Pope Francis’ lead, this pastoral ministry plan is a pastoral missionary plan that sets forth goals for the next 5-7 years for the department of new evangelization of the Diocese of Green Bay. “Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: “We have always done it this way”. I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. A proposal of goals without an adequate communal search for the means of achieving them will inevitably prove illusory”.<sup>3</sup>

The New Evangelization begins with each one of us, with our own continued conversion to Jesus Christ through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. While the goals in this pastoral ministry plan may seem simple, the difficulty may lie in measuring them. With this in mind we entrust this plan to Our Lady of Good Help who herself had a simple message *“Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing. I will help you”.*

We ask Our Lady of Good Help to be the patroness of our efforts in the new evangelization for the Diocese of Green Bay.

“Through her many titles, often linked to her shrines, Mary shares the history of each people which has received the Gospel and she becomes a part of their historic identity. (EG#286)

“We ask the Mother of the living Gospel to intercede that this invitation to a new phase of evangelization will be accepted by the entire ecclesial community. Today we look to her and ask her to help us proclaim the message of salvation to all and to enable new disciples to become evangelizers in turn”. (EG #287)



2 Pope Francis’s *Address to the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization*, (October 14, 2014). ). [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francesco/speeches/2013/october/documents/papa-francesco\\_20131014\\_plenaria-consiglio-nuova-evangelizzazione\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/october/documents/papa-francesco_20131014_plenaria-consiglio-nuova-evangelizzazione_en.html)

3 Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), (November 2013), #33. [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francesco/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20131124\\_evangelii-gaudium\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.html) Henceforth known as EG throughout the document.

## Targets of this Pastoral Ministry New Evangelization Plan include:

- ❖ Leadership - Diocesan and Parish Leadership ❖
- ❖ Persons in the Pew (Those who attend regularly and those who attend sporadically) ❖
- ❖ Those distant from the Catholic Church and who are no longer attending Church ❖
- ❖ Those who have rejected the Gospel message or those who have never heard the Gospel message ❖

In composing this document we are mindful that Pope Francis and his predecessors have identified three areas within which the new evangelization must take place.

"In first place, we can mention the area of *ordinary pastoral ministry*, which is animated by the fire of the Spirit, so as to inflame the hearts of the faithful who regularly take part in community worship and gather on the Lord's day to be nourished by his word and by the bread of eternal life. In this category we can also include those members of faithful who preserve a deep and sincere faith, expressing it in different ways, but seldom taking part in worship. Ordinary pastoral ministry seeks to help believers to grow spiritually so that they can respond to God's love ever more fully in their lives.

A second area is that of *the baptized whose lives do not reflect the demands of Baptism* who lack a meaningful relationship to the Church and no longer experience the consolation born of faith. The Church, in her maternal concern, tries to help them experience a conversion which will restore the joy of faith to their hearts and inspire a commitment to the Gospel.

Lastly, we cannot forget that evangelization is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to *those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him*. Many of these are quietly seeking God, led by a yearning to see his face, even in countries of ancient Christian tradition.

All of them have a right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone". (EG#14)



## **The Pastoral Ministry plan of the Diocese of Green Bay is structured into four focus areas:**

1. Essential Encounter
2. Invitation and Welcoming
3. Worship
4. Witness

This pastoral ministry plan endeavors to concentrate on the essential elements of encounter with Christ, witness to Christ, worship of Christ and welcoming others in Christ. “The message has to concentrate on the essentials” remarks Pope Francis, “on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary. The message is simplified, while losing none of its depth and truth, and thus becomes all the more forceful and convincing”. (EG#36).

## **Focus Area 1: Encounter**

### **Inspiration**

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”.<sup>4</sup>

“Our hope is not in a program or philosophy but in the person of Jesus Christ, who comforts those who are burdened”.<sup>5</sup>

“Too often we presume that all those in leadership-at the Diocesan and parish level, those involved in parish activities, those who teach in our schools and religious education programs and those sitting in our pews have been evangelized. The reality is that we can no longer assume that this is the case. The majority of Catholics in the United States are sacramentalized but not evangelized. They do not know that an explicit, personal attachment to Christ-personal discipleship - is normative Catholicism as taught by the apostles and reiterated time and time again by the popes, councils and saints of the Church”.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> EG #3

<sup>5</sup> Committee on Catechesis and Evangelization, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “*Disciples Called to Witness*”, (Washington DC: January 2012).

<sup>6</sup> Weddell, Sherry “*Forming Intentional Disciples*”, (Our Sunday Visitor: Indiana, 2012), page no. 36.

## Reflection

The focus of this area is to ensure an encounter with Christ is kept at the center of planning for the new evangelization. This should not be understood as a one-time experience, but a lasting and ongoing conversion in the life of the faithful. This encounter with Christ is directed to all. In the context of this pastoral ministry plan, this plan is directed to Diocesan and parish leadership, to those who have been baptized Catholic (those practicing and those who have fallen out of familiarity with the Catholic Church) and to those who have not been baptized.

It is imperative that we set aside the assumption that those who minister for the Catholic Church, those who are engaged on our parish councils, committees and apostolates and those in our pews have had an encounter with Christ and are all evangelized. We mistakenly assume that those who participate in the multitude of ministries in the Church are evangelized but this is often not the case. Matthew Kelly mentions in his book *The Four Signs of A Dynamic Catholic*<sup>7</sup> that his research at the The Dynamic Catholic Institute intimates that only approximately 7% of those in our parishes are evangelized<sup>7</sup>. Participation and involvement in the life of the Church clearly does not qualify as discipleship.



### Goals for the area of Encounter:

- ❖ To help Diocesan staff, pastors and parish leaders set aside the assumption that we ourselves and that the people to whom we minister to, have experienced an encounter with Christ and which is ongoing. ❖
- ❖ To assist parishes to identify, define and commit to fostering a parish culture where intentional disciples of Christ are formed. ❖
- ❖ To identify, promote and develop intentional discipleship formation processes for Catholics sustained by a lasting encounter with Christ. ❖

<sup>7</sup> Kelly, Matthew “*The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*”, (Beacon Publishing, November 2012).

## **Strategies for the area of Encounter**

***Goal 1: To help Diocesan staff, pastors and parish leaders set aside the assumption that we ourselves and that people to whom we minister are encountering Christ.***

To research and create a Diocesan new evangelization survey that determines whether and where pastors and parish staff have encountered Christ in their own lives.

To provide parishes with a template and resources for the necessary spiritual tasks of the new evangelization focused on the call to holiness whereby one can experience an encounter with Christ.

To offer continued formation in the Catholic faith for Diocesan staff through the coordination of 3 Diocesan study classes per year. Classes are offered, evaluations are sought.

To offer a small group study for Diocesan staff on *Evangelii Gaudium*.

To strongly recommend that Diocesan staff attend Mass during the course of their day and disseminate supporting pertinent resources.

Encourage Diocesan Leadership / Pastors / Parish Leadership to begin and end every parish meeting and event with prayer and include time for reflection. Provide a series of prayer services/meeting prayers centered on the call to Holiness, evangelization and discipleship for parish leaders on the Diocesan website.

To focus the Diocesan annual staff retreat in the areas of prayer, spirituality and living out of the faith.

Prescribe Holy Hour for Department of New Evangelization Staff and invite other Diocesan colleagues to participate.

***Goal 2: To assist parishes to identify, define and commit to fostering a parish culture where intentional disciples of Christ are formed.***

To identify and disseminate best practices in the area of encounter, invitation and welcoming, worship and witness by interviewing the pastor and parish staff of parishes where there has been sustained positive growth in 1) Mass attendance 2) Giving 3) Baptism/Marriages 4) Sacramental life 4) Outreach and service to the poor and marginalized.

To identify and develop a comprehensive parish assessment tool based on this pastoral ministry plan to help parishes to foster a culture of intentional discipleship in their parish.

To encourage the use of the Evangelization toolkit from the USCCB- anticipated and supplement with content as needed.

To restructure, redesign and rework a component of the new evangelization section of the Diocesan website with a specific focus on parish leadership.

Work with Diocesan Department of Communications to develop “must haves for parish website” and to help parishes to make their social communications strategy an effective tool for evangelization.

Recommend that each parish have a committee for evangelization and develop resources and guidelines for committee work.

Convene the New Evangelization Team monthly to surface ideas, best practices and to provide parishes with additional support in the area of new evangelization.

To ensure that speakers for annual new evangelization day (held annually in collaboration with the Department of Education/Silver Lake College) enrich, uplift and nourish parish leadership’s understanding of new evangelization.

***Goal 3: To identify, promote and develop intentional discipleship formation processes for Catholics sustained by a lasting encounter with Christ.***

To research and introduce small faith sharing resources including the Christ Life series to the Diocese of Green Bay.

Development of new evangelization course with Silver Lake College/Holy Resurrection Monastery with curriculum centered on the themes of holiness, discipleship and evangelization.

To oversee the introduction of new methods of adult faith formation and young adult ministry that utilize various modern media and appeal to different groups of people.

# Focus Area 2: Invitation and Welcoming

## Inspiration

“The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel”.<sup>8</sup>

“The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open.....Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community, nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason”.<sup>9</sup>

“An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. *1 Jn 4:19*), and 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 outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father’s infinite mercy”.<sup>10</sup>

“It is not enough simply to open the door in welcome, but we must go out through that door to seek and meet the people!”<sup>11</sup>



## Reflection

It is in extending the arms of friendship and fellowship to our brothers and sisters in Christ that we can truly be communities of salt and light in the world. “Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (*Jn 13:35*). (EG#99). Cultivating an atmosphere of hospitality and trust is a key aspect of the new evangelization in reaching out to immigrants and young families particularly. In this way, every Catholic has an essential contribution to make in welcoming and fostering an atmosphere of trust in the parish. This aspect of the new evangelization is very personal and serves as an encounter with Christ in and of itself. The question must be asked “who am I excluding if I continue to do things the way that we have always done them?”. This attitude will help us to avoid falling into a mode of maintenance, complacency, comfort and status quo that says: “We have always done it this way” (EG #33).

<sup>8</sup> EG #114.

<sup>9</sup> EG #47.

<sup>10</sup> EG #24.

<sup>11</sup> Pope Francis, Homily, Mass at the Cathedral of San Sebastien, World Youth Day, (Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, July 27th 2013).

## **Goals for the area of Invitation and Welcoming**

- ❖ To encourage all of our parishes and parish groups to ask four critical questions in examining their invitational and welcoming efforts. ❖
- ❖ To find new and innovative ways to welcome and invite those whom we interact with, to come to church with us especially the poor, the outcast, the stranger, the lonely and the difficult. ❖
- ❖ To help parishes to re-propose faith in Jesus and re-establish trust in His Church by inviting those who have fallen away with a personal invitation to return. ❖
- ❖ To encourage parishes to develop ecumenical partnerships with other Christian communities. ❖

## **Strategies for the area of Invitation and Welcoming**

*Goal 1: To encourage all of our parishes and parish groups to ask these four questions in the context of invitation and welcoming:*

In the context of the new evangelization:

What do we need START doing in our parish?

What do we need to STOP doing in our parish?

What do we need to KEEP doing in our parish?

Who are we excluding?

To apply these 4 questions to a plan for intentionally reaching out to the poor, the outcast, the stranger, the lonely and the difficult.

To encourage parishes, schools and apostolates to examine their mission statement in light of the new evangelization and to provide a template by which parishes can tweak their parish mission statement to be Christ centered and focused on creating disciples.

To develop guidelines and resources for parish hospitality/welcoming committees.

To offer a workshop for receptionists/administrative assistants at parishes/schools regarding welcoming and hospitality.

To develop a “Receptionists” desk prayer for all those who welcome people to our parishes/schools.

***Goal 2: To find new and innovative ways to welcome and invite those whom we interact with, to come to church with us especially the poor, the outcast, the stranger, the lonely and the difficult.***

In tandem with the “One” media project focus one Sunday per year on inviting one person to Mass. Tentatively called “Invite One” or “Welcome One” or “Witness Sunday”.

In collaboration with the adult faith formation coordinator develop resources for 1) parish leadership and 2) persons in the pew regarding reaching those who have drifted or feel marginalized from the Church. Tentatively called “Why people leave the Church (and what you can do about it)”.

In collaboration with the St. Gianna Molla society organize and host a mass for those with disabilities particularly children at the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay.

***Goal 3: To help parishes to re-propose faith in Jesus and re-establish trust in His Church by inviting those who have fallen away with a personal invitation to return.***

To help parishes to develop an intentional approach to welcoming those who are no longer attending Church by identifying processes, resources and programs that build a comprehensive approach.

To encourage parishes to ask if/how their registration process builds a relationship with new members of the community and revise this process, if need be, with the primacy of relationship building in mind.

Using the model developed at Holy Spirit Parish in Kimberly, design a registration process focusing on an active mentoring component.

To recommend that parishes utilize the gifts of spiritual directors in reaching out to new members and those who are not attending the parish.

In collaboration with the office of worship and the Vicar for Priests recommend hosting a Diocesan liturgy of lament and repentance for the victims of abuse, particularly sexual abuse.

## *Goal 4: To encourage parishes to develop ecumenical partnerships with other Christian communities.*

To recommend that parishes host the members of other Christian communities at an ecumenical prayer service/dinner on the annual celebration of Christian Unity.

To recommend that parishes participate in Diocesan ecumenical events and the Diocesan ecumenical committee.

To encourage parishes to partner with non-Catholic outreach programs/mission trips.

Parishes are encouraged to incorporate the needs of other Christian communities into their own prayers of petition.

## **Focus Area 3: Worship**

### **Inspiration**

“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”.<sup>12</sup>

“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”.<sup>13</sup>

“The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. If we approach it in this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us. But if this is to come about, we need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us to realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others”.<sup>14</sup>

“It is this face of Christ that must be rediscovered through the Sacrament of Penance”.<sup>15</sup>

“The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it”.<sup>16</sup>

12 EG #27.

13 EG#28

14 EG #264

15 Blessed Pope John Paul II, “Novo Millennio Ineunte”, (Liberia Editrice Vaticana, 2000) , no. 37.

16 Catechism of the Catholic Church, (Washington , D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 2000) no. 1324.

## Reflection

For most Catholics, their primary contact with parish life will be at Sunday Mass and their opportunity to encounter Christ in the sacrament of Eucharist. As such, the Mass is a powerful instrument for evangelization and every effort should be made to cultivate an environment that intentionally fosters intentional discipleship during Sunday Mass. Attention and care should be especially directed to the welcoming process, the music, the preaching and to the integration of families with young children into the community. Attention should also be given to bridging the gap between Sunday Mass and a life of discipleship in calling “people to a more effective integration of daily prayer in their lives, especially the ancient practice of praying the psalms and the Church’s Liturgy of the Hours, contemplation of the mysteries of the life of Christ through the Rosary and a greater reverence of the Eucharist though adoration of the Blessed Sacrament”.<sup>17</sup> Worship involves not only participation in Sunday Mass but also the celebration of the sacraments. It is in participating in the sacraments and the sacramentals of Catholic life that credible disciples emerge.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation contains the elements of conversion, confession and celebration. It is this sacrament which changes us, challenges us and equips us as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ to reach out to others and to transform the world for Christ. The Sacrament of Reconciliation brings us into intimate contact with Jesus where we are liberated from the sins that trouble our hearts and minds and experience God’s unconditional forgiveness and mercy so that we can be a living fountain of forgiveness and mercy to others. When this liberation happens through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are better disposed to proclaim the Gospel with both words and deeds. A renewed approach to the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be encouraged in the parish with an explicit invitation to those who regularly attend confession, those who attend sporadically and those who do not attend at all.

<sup>17</sup> United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “National Directory for Catechesis”, (Washington, D.C.: 2005).

## **Goals for the area of Worship include:**

- ❖ To help parishes to make the celebration of sacraments and public prayer effective. ☸
- ❖ To encourage the development of the contemplative spirit that will renew the discipline of personal prayer and the capacity to discern the spirit. ☸
- ❖ To encourage greater participation and appreciation of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. ☸
- ❖ To identify and implement innovative ways to communicate the importance of Sunday worship and to reclaim the practice of Sunday as a day of holy rest. ☸

## **Strategies for the area of Worship**

### *Goal 1: To help parishes to make the celebration of sacraments and public prayer effective.*

Develop booklet for clergy/deacons and parish leaders entitled “Preaching and the New Evangelization” with material drawn from *Evangelii Gaudium*.

Develop resources for pastors regarding how to make the celebration of the sacraments and public prayer effective in fostering a culture of discipleship.

To ensure that the Mass when celebrated at events such as Lifest are spirit filled celebrations with homilies centering on the themes of renewal and conversion.

Schedule and conduct ongoing homiletic training for clergy with a specific focus on key moments of return.

Schedule a workshop for ushers/greeters and other ministers of hospitality throughout the Diocese focused on their role in the new evangelization.

Create attractive web presence focused on the Liturgy in general and the Liturgy of the Hours in particular.

To provide theological and spiritual formation in the nature of the Liturgy and its relationship to Christian existence.

## *Goal 2: To encourage the development of the contemplative spirit that will renew the discipline of personal prayer and the capacity to discern the spirit.*

To explore bringing the “Called and Gifted” workshop from the St. Catherine of Siena Institute to the Diocese to conduct training on discernment of charisms for those engaged in evangelization at the parish including parish evangelization teams.

Recommend that Diocesan Leadership / Pastors / Parish Leadership seek / actively engage in Spiritual Direction.

To encourage parishes to create and share their own prayers of the faithful and share those prayers with other parishes by placing them on the Diocesan website.

To compile, maintain and share a list of spiritual directors so that parishes might be able to offer spiritual direction to their parishioners either on a local or vicariate level.

Convene Spiritual Directors luncheon and meeting once per year.

Include a specific place on the Diocesan website focused on prayer and discernment where parishioners and potential parish members can learn more about the great spiritual treasury of the Catholic Church.

## *Goal 3: To encourage greater participation and appreciation of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.*

To encourage parishes to take a renewed look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the sacrament characteristic of the new evangelization.

To provide guidelines/recommendations for pastors to re-propose the Sacrament of Reconciliation to parishioners.

To support and collaborate with the Vicar for Priests during the “Light is on for You” campaign.

To ensure that catechetical and formation materials regarding confession are placed on the Diocesan website - for parish leaders and parishioners.

To collaborate with parishes to include a schedule of Reconciliation for parishes in the Diocese of Green Bay on the Diocesan website.

To include a “button” on the Diocesan website where a person can indicate that they are in need of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To schedule the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Diocesan offices for Diocesan staff during the Lenten season and Advent.

To encourage Eucharistic devotions and Adoration and promote this as a means of the spiritual renewal of the parish.

To include “Homily Hints” on the new evangelization, discipleship and evangelization for pastors.  
To oversee the activities of the Marian Eucharistic Conference.

***Goal 4: To identify and implement innovative ways to communicate the importance of Sunday worship and to reclaim the practice of Sunday as a day of holy rest.***

To develop a study guide to accompany Bishop Ricken’s series on Dies Domini.

To encourage parishes to utilize the Dies Domini series in their small group and adult faith formation efforts.

Ensure that a policy regarding sporting events and the importance of Sunday Mass and rest is developed and implemented.

## **Focus Area 4: Witness**

### **Inspiration**

“In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers”.<sup>18</sup>

“New Evangelization means to reawaken the life of faith in the heart and mind of our contemporaries.... What we need especially in these times are credible witnesses who with their life and also with the word render the Gospel visible, reawaken attraction for Jesus Christ, for God’s beauty”.<sup>19</sup>

“The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are “disciples” and “missionaries”, but rather that we are always “missionary disciples”.<sup>20</sup>



<sup>18</sup> EG #27

<sup>19</sup> Pope Francis’s address to the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, (October 14, 2013).

<sup>20</sup> EG #133.

## The Second Vatican Council identifies four main aspects of the mission of the baptized:

- The Witness of their Lives
- Works of Charity and Mercy
- Renewing the Temporal Order
- Direct Evangelization

## Reflection

The goals in this section call all Catholics to continue to hear the Good News at ever-deeper levels and allow it to take root in their lives. “The call to holiness, given to every Catholic through baptism, consecrates each one to God and to the service of the kingdom. This deepening of faith, in holiness, fosters a desire to involve others in that faith, until God will be “all in all” in a transformed world”.<sup>21</sup> We are asked, not just to believe in the Gospel but to allow it to take deep root in us so that we cannot help but to announce the Gospel with our lives in word ad in deed. This missionary outreach is at the heart of a life of discipleship. “Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey”. (EG#126). The root of the word “religion” from the Latin *ligare* means to “bind together”. An active living of Catholicism involves intentionality and integration of work, socialization, worship etc. A Catholic cannot compartmentalize their faith but must prioritize their faith as it binds together every area of their life. It is in and through this active living of Catholic life that the temporal order of the world will be renewed and transformed.

### Goals for the area of Witness.

- ❖ To foster an experience of conversion and renewal in the heart of every believer leading to a more active living of Catholic life. ☸
- ❖ To equip and support parishes to form joyful and credible witnesses in the world, attracting others to be disciples of Jesus Christ through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. ☸
- ❖ To encourage all to overcome their fear of sharing their heartfelt understanding of Jesus with others and how to talk about the Gospel in daily life. ☸
- ❖ To help our parishes to identify and put into practice their unique calling to serve their neighbors. ☸

<sup>21</sup> United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Committee on Evangelization, “Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for the Implementation of Evangelization in the United States”, (Washington: DC, November 1992), no. #89.

## **Strategies for the Area of Witness**

### ***Goal 1: To foster an experience of conversion and renewal in the heart of every believer leading to a more active living of Catholic life.***

To restructure, redesign and reword the new evangelization section of the Diocesan website to be more attractive to those seeking information on the Catholic Church and seeking a personal relationship with Christ.

To repropose the kerygma through a multi-media story telling project. Tentatively known as the “ONE” (Operation New Evangelization) media project.

To develop an adult faith formation “witness panel” comprised of persons with very different stories in order to model how to share your story of faith.

To strengthen Diocesan promotion of and involvement in Koinonia, the Charismatic movement, CHRP, Cursillo and other programs of renewal and conversion already present in our parishes.

### ***Goal 2: To equip and support parishes to form joyful and credible witnesses in the world, attracting others to be disciples of Jesus Christ through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.***

Encouragement of Diocesan Leadership / Pastors / Parish Leadership to engage in spiritual reading of the Scriptures, such as *Lectio Divina* or some other contemplative method and provide opportunities to do so.

Encourage Diocesan Leadership / Pastors / Parish Leadership to share an annual retreat experience together that calls them to continuing growth in faith.

To research and if necessary, create a discipleship blueprint to help parishes to identify the thresholds of conversion in working with individuals and ascertaining their readiness for the next step of their spiritual journey.

Continued parish cultivation of smaller groupings for prayer, spiritual growth, and apostolic efforts in which the Gospel is shared, experienced and applied to daily life.

In collaboration with Silver Lake College and St. Norbert College cultivate and secure placement for new evangelization interns to help parishes to foster a culture of intentional discipleship in the parish.

To promote pilgrimage activities and large gatherings such as the Walk to Mary and the Marian Eucharistic Conference as a means to encounter Christ and strengthening people in faith.

Courses/Seminars and faith sharing processes are identified, developed and offered through the New Evangelization course.

## ***Goal 3: To encourage all to overcome their fear of sharing their heartfelt understanding of Jesus with others and how to talk about the Gospel in daily life.***

In tandem with the “ONE” media project to designate one weekend per year as “Invite One, Welcome One, Embrace One - Walk with One in Faith” or similar theme to encourage all to invite one to Mass, to welcome an unfamiliar face and to embrace a new friend. Suggested weekend: Pentecost Sunday.

Develop a resource for people regarding how to share their unique story of faith. Parish leaders would receive training in this model and a resource created to help parishes to facilitate faith sharing amongst adults/youth.

Courses/seminars & faith sharing processes are identified, developed and offered through the new evangelization course in collaboration with Silver Lake College.

## ***Goal 4: To help our parishes to identify and put into practice their unique calling to serve their neighbors.***

Research or develop resources to help parishes identify their unique parish charism in serving the world.

To collaborate with the department of Living Justice on initiatives that form and strengthen parish efforts in the area of living justice.

Propose that parishes as part of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese lead a campaign in which contact is made with every single home within the parish.

To recommend that parishes take a missionary approach to baptismal preparation. This could include offering baptismal preparation in the homes of young parents instead of requiring these often harried young parents to attend parish meetings and also include a fresh innovative approach to parish based baptismal programming.

To encourage parishes to explore and implement new mentor programs for new parents, for those newly wed and for those who are widowed.

To work with the youth ministry director of the Diocese to implement a youth leadership program focused on reaching out to the poor, the outcast, the stranger, the lonely and the difficult.

To partner with the office of living justice to encourage parishioners to sponsor/and or participate in missionary trips.

## **Recommendations**

**To respond to the call for the New Evangelization it is recommended that the parishes of the Diocese of Green Bay will:**

1. Establish a Discipleship or Evangelization Committee.
2. Encourage all parish committees, parish/school staff to read “Disciples Called To Witness” and to engage in ongoing substantive discussion regarding evangelization.
3. Encourage each parish in our Diocese to create a Parish Discipleship Blueprint detailing how the parish will implement the universal call to holiness and the mission of evangelization within the parish.

**It is recommended that the Regions/Vicariate will:**

1. Ensure through the Regional Vicar that each Vicariate has an active Discipleship/Evangelization Committee.
2. Encourage and support parishes in developing their Parish Discipleship Blueprint.
3. Promote the universal call to holiness as a goal of all activities within the Vicariate, as articulated in documents such as *Novo Millenio Inuente, Evangelii Nuntiandi, et al.*

**The Department of New Evangelization of the Diocese of Green Bay will:**

1. Develop comprehensive tools and resources for parishes to use in creating, developing and implementing a Parish Discipleship Blueprint.
2. Develop and oversee regional, vicariate, parish, and online formation opportunities focusing on discipleship and new evangelization and in particular conversion and the call to holiness.
3. Develop and facilitate Discipleship/Evangelization Committee formation workshops and processes for vicariates, and parishes.
4. Promote and offer seminars, workshops, conferences, gatherings and online resource materials for the new evangelization.
5. Resource or develop processes, tools and programs aimed at reaching out to inactive Catholics or those who are on “the margins”.
6. Offer guidance and consultation to parishes in the areas of the call to holiness, discipleship and evangelization.

**It is recommended that the Diocese of Green Bay will:**

7. Collaborate inter-departmentally to ensure that parishes are supported, encouraged and equipped to focus on evangelization.
8. Collaborate in offering seminars, workshops, conferences, gatherings and online resource materials for the new evangelization.
9. Offer guidance and consultation to parishes in the areas of the call to holiness, discipleship and evangelization.
10. Strongly recommend that all staff: Support the Bishop's Appeal, attend Mass daily or as often as possible on campus.
11. Establish a weekly "holy hour" for the intention of reaching out to those who have left the Catholic Church. All departments are invited to participate.

**It is recommended that bishop will:**

Proclaim that evangelization is the primary mission of the Church and call upon all Catholics to devote themselves to this mission through continued catechesis, prayer, worship, and acts of charity.

1. Provide formation for clergy and lay ministry in the ministry of evangelization and catechesis.
2. Call the people of the diocese to a deeper, "spirit-filled" life of infused prayer, promoting the rich and broad heritage of Catholic spirituality.
3. Establish that parishes will move from maintenance to mission.
4. Call for a new emphasis on the return of inactive Catholics through open dialogue and healing of those issues hindering their coming home.
5. Encourage all clergy to participate in inter-faith relationship building and ecumenical dialogue, and develop new ways to collaborate in bringing God's love to those suffering.
6. Promote Gospel values by recognizing the importance of the family, the dignity of all people, and the importance of Christian value advocacy by all Catholics.