

DISCIPLES ON THE WAY: FOLLOW JESUS

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE? A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE?

“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.”

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) #127

A REFLECTION ON MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

What does it mean to be a disciple?

Before one can evangelize, one must be evangelized. Before one can disciple others, one must be a disciple.

The new evangelization begins with each one of us as a disciple. The identity of a disciple springs from Jesus Christ, through faith and Baptism, and grows in the Church, the community where all its members acquire equal dignity and participate in various ministries and charisms.

What is the difference between a disciple and a missionary disciple?

The word disciple comes from the Greek word *mathetes* meaning pupil/student of the master. It is an apprenticeship in faith to the master, Jesus Christ.

A disciple is a friend and follower of Jesus who follows Jesus, worships Jesus, and shares Jesus with others.

A disciple is someone who:

- Discovers Jesus
- Follows Jesus
- Worships Jesus
- Shares Jesus

A missionary disciple is one who emphasizes the importance of following and sharing Jesus with others and inspires, equips and forms others to be disciples and disciple makers.

A missionary disciple is someone who:

- Introduces others to Jesus
- Accompanies others on their Way
- Invites and accompanies others to Sunday Worship and the Sacraments
- Inspires, forms, equips and sends others on mission to share Jesus and make disciples

NOTES



Diocese of
Green Bay

TEN HABITS OF DISCIPLESHIP		
	DISCIPLES	MISSIONARY DISCIPLES
Relationship	Has a personal relationship with Jesus	Introduces others to their best friend Jesus
Prayer	Prays every day	Helps others to pray
Commitment	To Jesus, His Church and to the Kingdom	Guides others to make a commitment to Jesus, His Church and to the Kingdom
Worship	At least once a week in the most Holy Eucharist	Welcomes and invites others to Mass and to the Sacraments
Study	Sacred Scripture and other Christian writings	Shares their love of Sacred Scripture and other Christian writings with others
Open	Open and responsive to where the Holy Spirit and Jesus are calling me	Helps others to be open to the Holy Spirit and where they are being called
Participates	In the community and the Sacramental life of the Church	Walks with others intentionally in faith and helps them to discern where the Lord is calling them to participate
Serves	Others in the name of Jesus Christ	Guides others to serve in the name of Jesus Christ
Shares	My personal gifts, time, and treasure with the Lord, His Church, and others	Helps others in word and deed to be generous stewards of the gifts given to us
Evangelizes	The world through word, witness, works of mercy, and compassion	Provides support and formation for others in how to share the Good News

“When God comes, he always calls us out of our house. We are visited so that we can visit others; we are encountered so as to encounter others; we receive love in order to give love.” - Pope Francis



FOR REFLECTION:

“Jesus is the only Gospel: we have nothing further to say or any other witness to bear.”

- John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* #80

“There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed.”

- Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* #22



PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Where am I in my journey as a “Disciple on the Way”?
- What practices do I need to spend time praying about in order to deepen my faith?
- Who am I journeying with as a fellow “Disciple on the Way”?
- Who is supporting my journey as a “Disciple on the Way”?



PARISH REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- As we consider our parish, what can we do to make the mission of our parish in making disciples more explicit?
- Who are the most readily available, on fire and enthusiastic disciples that could help to move other “Disciples on the Way”?
- What existing initiatives or ministries are most important to growing our discipleship efforts?
- Which ministries need to be relooked at from the perspective of discipleship?
- What do we need to STOP doing to grow disciples?
- What do we need to KEEP doing (but perhaps improve) to grow disciples?
- What do we need to START doing to grow disciples?
- How will we know if we are successful in making disciples?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

