

Dear Pastors/Pastoral Leaders and Parish Mission Planning Teams,

I pray you are well and blessed!

We enjoyed meeting with you at one of our recent Parish Mission Planning Pastoral Leader information gatherings. As mentioned, we have learned a great deal over the past year and have incorporated many enhancements to the parish mission planning process (PMP). One such learning is the importance of fostering discipleship throughout the mission planning process.

In partnership with Julianne Stanz and the Office of Parish Evangelization and Discipleship, we recently piloted a “Discipleship Experience” as a pre-cursor for two PMP teams. This has been a tremendous benefit.

“Taking the time [for the Discipleship Experience] at the beginning of the process helps to establish a strong team rooted in prayer, fellowship and strong leadership skills. It made [the] process beautiful and flow from our mutual love of our Lord and Catholicism.”

- Sarah Elmer, Parish Youth Minister and CO-PMP Team Facilitator at Holy Spirit, Kimberly”

“Parish Mission Planning was very helpful in that it made us focus on missionary goals that gave us direction for the present and the future.”

- Fr. Bob Kollath, former Pastor at Holy Spirit, Kimberly

“It has opened our eyes to not only our parish needs, but the needs of our community (Mission Field), and we can now put goals together to strengthen our parish and community.”

- Fr. Paul Paider, Pastor of St. Mary & St. John the Baptist, Menasha

“The Discipleship Experience helps to set the tone for what your Parish Mission Planning Team is about to embark on. It helps remind you that what you are doing has the power to transform not only your parish, but your community, and the world around you.”

- Becky Castonia, Parish Council Chair, St. John the Baptist, Menasha

From my perspective, I witnessed an improved authenticity and spiritual discernment in the team’s relational interactions and communications. There were also sharper, more focused goals and projects set forth that fostered a deeper sense of evangelization, outreach and discipleship for the parish.

Given these positive results, Julianne and I are excited to extend a personal invitation to you and your parish mission planning team to take advantage of this newly named event “**Discover & Follow Jesus: Grow as a Disciple.**” Each event is facilitated by a trained and well-formed three-person discipleship team. The goal is to help your PMP team grow as a community of missionary disciples so that they can support your parish mission planning efforts.

Please share this with your PMP team and look to register yourself and your PMP team for one of our upcoming events:

- Thursday, September 19 | 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. in Lakewood
- Thursday, October 24 | 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. in Pulaski
- Thursday, November 14 | 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. in Oshkosh

For more details and registration, click here: [PMP Discipleship](#)

In Christ Jesus,

Barry M. Metzentine
Parish Operations & Mission Planning Director

CC: Julianne Stanz, Director of Parish Life & Evangelization Mission Team

FULL QUOTES OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PMP-DISCIPLESHIP EXPERIENCE PILOT

“Parish Mission Planning was an opportunity to provide an intense concentration on the future path of the parish. Even with this strong focus on the future, taking the time in the present to establish a strong team rooted in prayer, fellowship and strong leadership skills made this process beautiful and worthwhile. Furthermore, the Discipleship Experience at the beginning of the process helps to make all efforts flow from our mutual love of our Lord and Catholicism.”

- Sarah Elmer, Parish Youth Minister and CO-PMP Team Facilitator at Holy Spirit, Kimberly”

“Parish Mission Planning was very helpful in that it made us focus on missionary goals that gave us direction for the present and the future.”

- Fr. Bob Kollath, former Pastor at Holy Spirit, Kimberly

“The PMP process has afforded the two parishes that I serve, to work more closely together, while prayerfully allowing the Holy Spirit to provide the future direction of the missionary efforts of St. Mary and St. John the Baptist Parishes in proclaiming the Gospel.” It has opened our eyes to not only our parish needs, but the needs of our community (Mission Field), and we can now put goals together to strengthen our parish and community. It has been a very good process, and we are looking forward to implementing our goals. We continue to invite the Holy Spirit to guide us through the completion of our journey.”

- Fr. Paul Paider, Pastor of St. Mary & St. John the Baptist, Menasha

“Being involved in the Parish Mission Planning Process is an honor. The Discipleship Experience helps to set the tone for what your Parish Mission Planning Team is about to embark on. It helps remind you that what you are doing has the power to transform not only your parish, but your community, and the world around you. It's an exercise in allowing the Holy Spirit to work through you and your teammates.”

- Becky Castonia, Parish Council Chair, St. John the Baptist, Menasha