



# Bridging the Gap

Co-Workers for the Harvest

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Revelation  
(Church Teaching)



Lived  
Experience  
of Catholics

"There is a chasm between the Church's theology . . . And the lived, spiritual experience of the majority of our people." (Sherry Weddell)

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## Passive Pre-Disciple

Is on a spiritual journey they may or may not be aware of.  
*(Pre-trust, Trust, Curiosity, Openness)*



## Active Pre-Disciple

Leads to an intentional and deliberate commitment to Jesus that they can articulate.  
*(Seeking, Intentional Commitment)*



## Missionary Disciple

Has decided to answer the call to take part in the mission of the Church. Has made a disciple.



## Growing Disciple

Will do anything it takes to grow as a disciple. Consistent in continually growing in the basic habits of the Christian life.



The primary agent of evangelization is the Holy Spirit

*Evangelii Nuntiandi, 75*

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The majority of Catholics, practicing or non-practicing, are in one of the earlier, essentially passive, stages of spiritual development.

The majority of Catholics, practicing or non-practicing, are in **pre-discipleship**.

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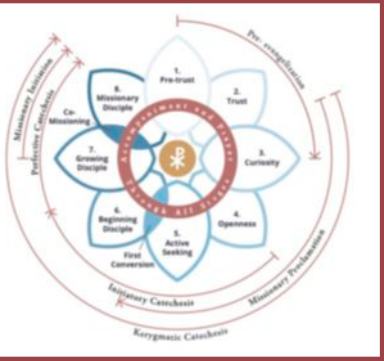
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Center for the New Evangelization in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati



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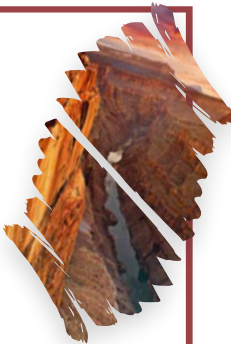
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## Bridging the Gap requires:

### A pastoral vision and strategy that:

- Begin with the end in mind (Missionary Discipleship)
- Meet people where they are on their faith journey
- Connect people with the person of Jesus Christ
- Provide personal nurturing, nourishment, accompaniment, and formation
- Shift away from a primary focus on the formation of children and embraces a model of adult-focused formation



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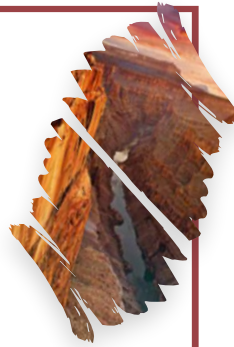
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## Bridging the Gap requires:

### A healthy and flexible organization that:

- Embraces the best of organizational management and leadership principles
- Holds its members accountable
- Embraces dynamic and constructive conflict
- Believes in the Vision
- Consists of Disciples



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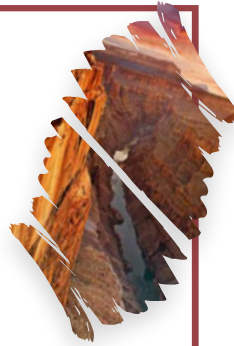
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## Bridging the Gap requires:

### A wide and deep bench of missionary disciples who:

- Are not limited to clergy, staff members and the same corps of volunteers who do everything in the parish
- Know how to accompany others and invite them into deeper relationship with Jesus
- Have discerned their own charisms (spiritual gifts) and know how God has supernaturally gifted them to be Christ to others
- Focus the majority of their time & ministry outside of the parish



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## Mindset Shifts Are Required

- You cannot evangelize what/whom you do not love.
- You can not do it all—the mission is shared with the entire Church. Adult baptized men and women will be the primary “doers” of the mission.
- Ultimate goal of the parish should be on sharing the message and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world outside of the parish.
- Our mission is not to “get more volunteers” or to “make engaged & involved parishioners” but to make disciples.
- Disciples are not mass produced. They are handcrafted, artisanal works that take a significant investment of time, energy, and love.



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# Pastoral Planning Application

**Make a list of all of the activities and ministries of your parish.**

Then, place each of these activities under the area of the discipleship lifecycle (Pre-Disciple, Beginning Disciple, Growing Disciple, Missionary Disciple) or stage of the evangelization process (Encounter, Accompaniment, Community, Send) to which they are primarily geared. *Note:*

*Arrange them based on the current reality - not where you think they should be or where you want them to be.*

**Are there any areas of the lifecycle which are underrepresented? What you might place in those underrepresented areas to boost their focus?**

**How might you change existing activities and ministries so that they could provide fruit in those underrepresented areas?**

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