



Making Disciples

The Evangelizing Process

Burning Hearts Disciples © Anderson & Associates LLC, 2016

The Purpose of the Church



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)

Crisis Response

Our pastoral response to this crisis has not borne sustainable fruit because we have largely been reacting to problematic symptoms rather than the core issue.

Our diagnosis has not gone deep enough!



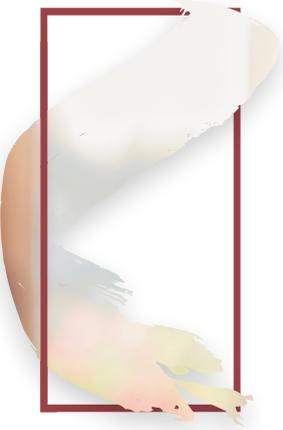
Declining Mass Attendance
Lack of Engagement
Lack of Giving
Vocation "Crisis"
Passivity
Minimal Outreach

What is the diagnosis?

H P
Heart of the Problem

Many Catholics are "still without any explicit personal attachment to Jesus Christ; they only have the capacity to believe placed within them by Baptism and the presence of the Holy Spirit."

St. John Paul II, Catechesis in Our Times, 19



What is Evangelization?

Much of our difficulty in actually evangelizing stems from confusion about what evangelization is!



Act of Evangelization

Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed so that others:

- encounter Jesus Christ
- are overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God
- commit their lives to following Him as disciples!

“Come and see”
John 1:38



“Follow me”
Matthew 9:9

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes.”
Acts 1:8

“Go and make disciples”
Matthew 28:19



“Remain in me”
John 15:4-5



Discussion Questions

Where are you personally right now on the discipleship spiral - in your own journey of faith?

What do you personally need to start doing to foster your next steps for growth as a disciple? Keep doing? Stop doing?

How does your parish team help foster evangelization and discipleship for one another - both individually and as a team?



Where are you on the journey?

The Discipleship Check-In

Developing a community of missionary disciples means recognizing:

- We can not do it all—whether as pastor or staff members or key volunteers
- Adult baptized men and women will be the primary “doers” of the mission—especially to the world outside the boundaries of the parish campus
- It utilizes an understanding of the key thresholds of the spiritual journey and has something for people at each threshold



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**.

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?
