

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

Living as Missionary Disciples

Diocese of Winona-Rochester



Mankato Deanery Workshop
Thursday, March 12th • St. John Vianney Parish, Fairmont

AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and prayer / Overview of the day (Peter Martin)
- 10:10 Introduction to current cultural and parish environments
(Aaron Lofy / Susan Windley-Daoust)
- 10:35 Parish group discussion: *What is the environment in your parish?*
- 10:50 Break
- 11:00 Why the “*Encountering Jesus*” initiative? (Todd Graff)
Review, “Guiding Principles for Missionary Discipleship”
- ENCOUNTER (Aaron)
 - ACCOMPANY (Todd)
 - BE IN COMMUNION (Peter / Marsha Stenzel)
 - SEND (Susan)
- 11:25 Questions about the “Guiding Principles” document
- 11:35 Parish reflection & discussion: Guiding Principles – ENCOUNTER and ACCOMPANY
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30 Parish reflection & discussion: Guiding Principles – BE IN COMMUNION and SEND
- 12:55 Large group sharing [followed by stretch break]
- 1:10 The Mission Planning Process (Susan)
- 1:35 Preparing for Ministry Days 2020 (Todd)
- 2:00 Closing Prayer

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

Living as Missionary Disciples

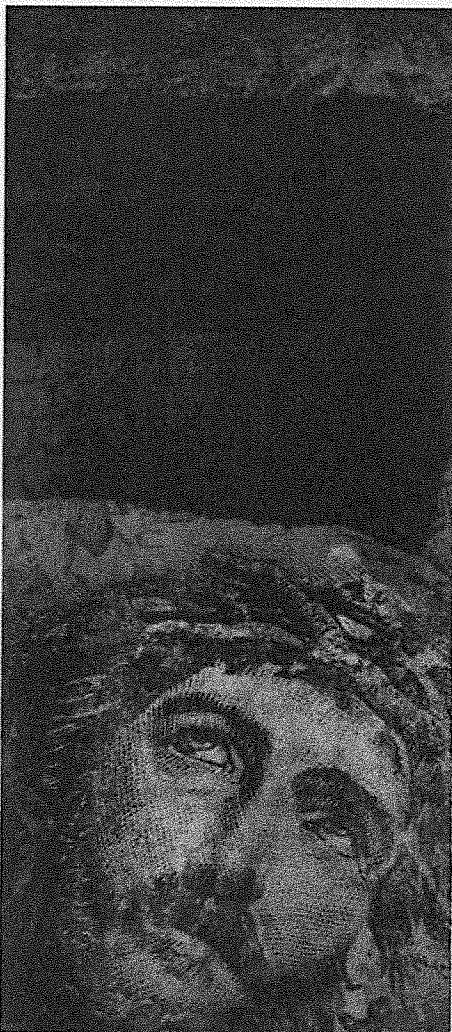
Guiding Principles for Missionary Discipleship ~ Diocese of Winona-Rochester

Reflection & Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

For staff/leadership reflection...

- What challenges do you see in your particular parish/cluster? Are these similar to, or different from, any of those named in the text?
- Who are your 'saints' in the parish/cluster?
- What does, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations," look like in your parish/cluster?
- Do you think your parish community understands that people's salvation is at stake?



ENCOUNTER

For personal/small-group reflection...

- In what ways do I encounter Jesus in my walk of faith?
How do I cultivate my friendship with Christ and the Church?
- How do I help others to grow in their relationship with Christ and with the Church?

For staff/leadership reflection...

- Does the parish – or communities within the parish – foster a culture of witness? ...When? Is there space for personal witness? ...Where?
- What opportunities and resources does the parish provide to cultivate ongoing encounters with Jesus?
- Seeking and responding to this encounter with Jesus leads to prayer. ... Is your parish/community a "school of prayer"? Is prayer taught, shared, and offered outside of the liturgy of the church? Does the celebration of the Mass foster a prayerful encounter?
- Is the initial encounter with Jesus Christ offered to those outside the Church? How do your parishioners share the Word and extend an invitation to others outside of the parish to encounter Jesus?

Accompany

For personal/small-group reflection...

- In what ways, and by whom, am I accompanied on my journey of faith?
- How do I accompany others on their path of conversion and discipleship?

For staff/leadership reflection...

- Are adults left on their own to figure out how to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, or are they given appropriate guidance and personal encouragement?
 - Hospitality refers to generously giving welcome to outsiders. ... As a community, are we giving welcome to those outside our community? How are we challenging ourselves to do better?
 - Do we only welcome those who seek out our parish, or do we go out to others and invite/welcome them to encounter Jesus within our parish community?
 - Do we dedicate time to helping each other grow as disciples of Christ? Do we listen to each other's stories? Do we pray for and with each other outside of Mass?
-

Be in communion

For personal/small-group reflection...

- What have been my experiences of community in parish life? What nurtures the bonds of community in my faith journey?
- How do we cultivate a communal and missionary spirit within our family?

”

Nevertheless, I want to emphasize that what I am trying to express here has a programmatic significance and important consequences. I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are. "Mere administration" can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be "permanently in a state of mission"

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* #25

“

For staff/leadership reflection...

- How is our parish doing at building up a sense of community and shared mission in our members?
- Do we recognize that Jesus Christ is the center of our community? How?
- Do we invite the Holy Spirit to guide our community? How?
- Do we worship with joy? ...with reverence? Do we believe that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ, and give witness to this belief?
- Do we welcome others to join us in meeting Christ and following Christ? How?
- Do we lovingly strive for deeper unity within our parish community? ...within our broader Christian community? ...within our diverse civic community?
- Do we strive for humble obedience to the magisterium of the Church?

Send

For personal/small-group reflection...

- In what ways do I publicly witness to my Christian faith? How might I find new ways to share with others the difference the love of Christ has made in my life?
- What areas of being a missionary disciple are the most challenging to me, and how am I being called to a deeper witness and conversion in my life of faith?

For staff/leadership reflection...

- Does our parish exist to evangelize? To seek out the lost? How?
- How does our parish support and encourage parishioners in giving public witness to the Christian life?
- Does our parish offer the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to the broader community we are part of? How?
- How does our school/parish show that it is committed to those in need, and what are we doing to encourage parishioners to intentionally and actively help those in need?
- Do we foster initiatives that outwardly and actively support the life and dignity of the human person



MINISTRY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

For Faith Formation

- Does our Faith Formation Program include a challenge to live a life of sanctity? If so, how do we hold each other accountable to that?

For Youth Ministry

- What attributes should our parish look for our youth to embody, and to actively demonstrate, before sending them out?

For Marriage Preparation/Enrichment...

- Has our parish taken seriously Pope Francis' repeated call to accompany young couples (both engaged and newly married)? In what ways are we assisting couples in the first five years of marriage?

For Catholic Schools...

- Are there times in your ministry of teaching where you could really use an infusion of hope, and how do you help others to find that hope in our quest for missionary discipleship?
- Where in discipleship does the role of 'holy humor' illumine, much like St. Thomas More?

For Christian Initiation (RCIA)...

- How does our parish and our RCIA ministry help our catechumens and candidates to truly encounter Jesus through the RCIA process?
- How do we invite our parish community to welcome and accompany our catechumens and candidates during the RCIA process? How might we do this more intentionally?

For Finance and Stewardship...

- Does your parish budget reflect an appropriate allocation of resources toward missionary discipleship?

For Vocations...

- Do I accompany young people in a relational and intentional way that helps them to grow in holiness and to discover God's plan and vocation for their life?