

# Pathway to Discipleship



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INSPIRING FAITH, KNOWLEDGE, AND COMMUNITY



“All too often those of us in positions of Church leadership assume that all folks in the pews on Sundays, all the children in our grade schools, high schools and ...in our youth groups and all the members of our RCIA teams are already disciples. Many are not. The same can be said of staffs and faculties of Catholic institutions. Our people may be very active in the programs of our parishes, [but] such participation does not qualify for discipleship.”

Father Damien Ference

*“Forming Intentional Disciples”* Sherry Weddell pg. 55.

# Unpacking Discipleship



A disciple.....

- Follows Jesus
- Is a friend of Jesus
- Wants to be with Jesus
- Wants a continually deepening relationship with Jesus
- Loves Jesus
- Wants to learn from Jesus
- Wants to share Jesus with others
- Practices the faith **JOYFULLY!**

# Principles of Discipleship

- ❖ We are disciples of a Person.
- ❖ We are not teaching a “subject” but introducing people to a Mystery.
- ❖ Disciples help form disciples.
- ❖ You can only lead others as far as you have gone yourself as a disciple.

# Our Typical Catholic Retention Strategy

- Focus on Programming
  - Childhood Catechesis
  - Sacramental Initiation



**How do I  
evangelize?**

**“Talk about Jesus.**

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**How do I spread  
the Good News?**

**Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, SLD**

# How did Jesus form disciples?

“Go and Make Disciples”

*Matthew 28:9*

“Remain United to Me”

*John 15:4*

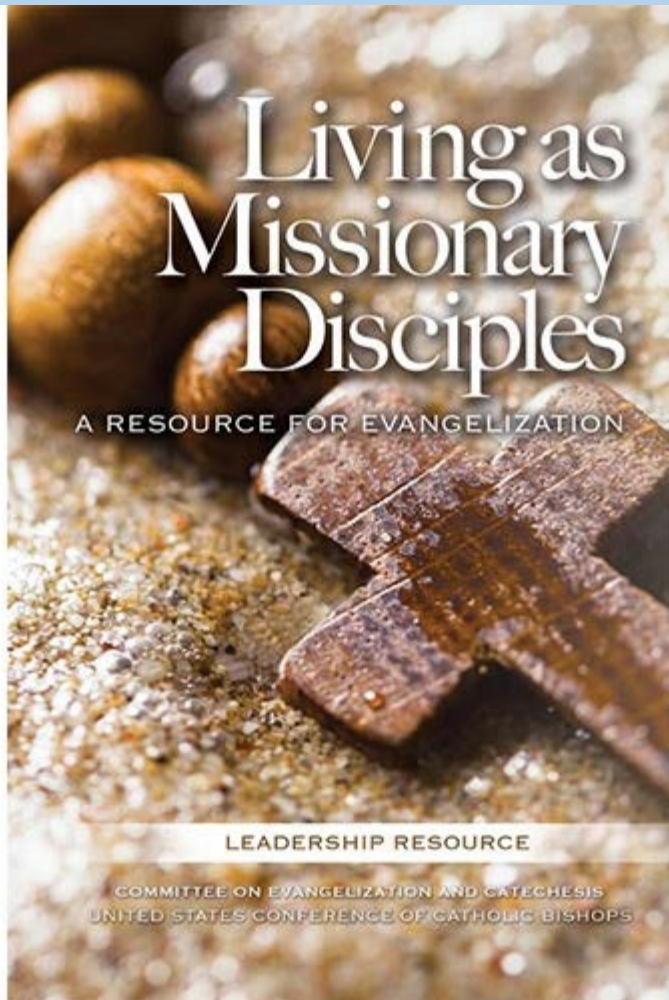
“Follow Me”

*Matthew 9:9*

“Come and see”

*John 1:38*

# Four Pillars



- **Encounter** – “Come and See”  
*“The purpose of evangelization is to lead people to encounter Christ.” – LMD, 9*
- **Accompany** – “Follow Me”  
*“The response to this encounter with Christ needs accompaniment.” – LMD, 14*
- **Community** – “Remain in Me”  
*“Evangelization invites people to the Body of Christ, which is the Catholic Church.” – LMD, 16*
- **Send** – “Go, therefore and make disciples”  
*“Evangelization leads disciples to accept God’s desire to send them on mission.” – LMD, 17*



Stage	Pre-Evangelization	Evangelization	Discipleship	Missionary Discipleship
Pope Francis Emphasis	<b>Encounter</b>	<b>Accompaniment</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Mission</b>
Jesus	<b>“Come and See”</b>	<b>“Follow Me”</b>	<b>“Remain United in Me”</b>	<b>“Go and Make Disciples”</b>
Diocese of Green Bay	<b>Discover Jesus</b>	<b>Follow Jesus</b>	<b>Worship Jesus</b>	<b>Share Jesus</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Relationship Building</li> <li>-Sharing Our Stories</li> <li>-Questions &amp; Answers</li> <li>-Healing</li> <li>-Hospitality</li> <li>-Service Opportunities (personal)</li> <li>-----</li> <li>-Minimal Stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Proclamation (Kerygma)</li> <li>-Witness/Testimony</li> <li>-Gift Inventories</li> <li>-Discernment</li> <li>-----</li> <li>-Growing in Stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Catechesis</li> <li>-Sacramental Catechesis</li> <li>-Liturgical Catechesis</li> <li>-Charism Discernment</li> <li>-----</li> <li>-Intentional Stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ongoing Formation</li> <li>-Apostolic Leadership</li> <li>-Service which transforms communal life</li> <li>-----</li> <li>-Sacrificial and Abundant Stewardship</li> </ul>
<b>Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Social events</li> <li>-parenting course</li> <li>-family ministry</li> <li>-men’s &amp; Women’s ministry events</li> <li>-healing support groups (divorce, loss)</li> <li>-Engaged couple ministry</li> <li>-Service projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Kerygma retreats</li> <li>-retreat ministry</li> <li>-relational evangelization</li> <li>-catechist support</li> <li>-Adult Confirmation</li> <li>-Teen encounter opportunities (Mission trips)</li> <li>-<i>Alpha, <u>ChristLife</u></i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Liturgical ministries</li> <li>-Bible Study</li> <li>-Called and Gifted</li> <li>-Devotionals (Lectio, Rosary, etc.)</li> <li>-<i>Catholicism DVD Series</i></li> <li>-<i>Christ Renews His Parish</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Advanced evangelization training</li> <li>-Leadership training</li> <li>-mentoring and apprenticeship</li> <li>-Peer Ministry</li> <li>-Retreat Team Leadership</li> <li>-In-depth adult faith formation</li> </ul>

# **The Holy Spirit is the protagonist of the New Evangelization.**

Msgr. Sergio Pintor



**Ample and abundant prayer must root all of our evangelizing efforts.**

So what do we need to know about Jesus?

We share the Gospel by proclaiming the basic story of salvation which is called the *kerygma*.



# Five Movements of the Kerygma

1. God is love and has created me for relationship with him.
2. I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.
3. Jesus restores my relationship with God through his life, death and resurrection.
4. Jesus invites me to give my life to him.
5. Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life.



“In catechesis too, we have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement or kerygma, which needs to be the center of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal...it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment”

Evangelii Gaudium, 164





## Pope Francis version:

“Jesus Christ loves you. He gave his life to save you. Now He is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”

Pope Francis  
Evangelii Gaudium, 164.  
Joy of the Gospel

# Sharing your Stories of Faith

“Whether you were baptized as a child or joined the Church as an adult, you have a story of faith. Whether you sincerely live your faith in quiet or have a great public ministry, you have a story of faith. Whether you have a grade-school knowledge of the Catechism or have a theological degree, you have a story of faith.”

Go and Make Disciples, no. 6, USCCB

# In Order to Share Our Stories



Discover stories



Embrace vulnerability



Highlight our weaknesses



Showcase God's strength



Become more relatable as we join in  
solidarity with others



# STRATEGIES

- **Ministries through an 'evangelizing' lens**
  - Pay attention to the stages of discipleship
  - Welcome and inclusion!
- **Kerygmatic catechesis**
  - Unpack Kerygma
  - Highlight Jesus' invitation
- **Faith witnessing**
  - Ask, "What difference has Jesus made in my life?"
  - Connect faith to life



A wide-angle photograph of a vast field of purple flowers, likely purple loosestrife, stretching to the horizon. The sky is a clear, bright blue with scattered, soft white clouds. The lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting, with a warm glow on the horizon.

Questions? Comments?  
I would love to hear from you!

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