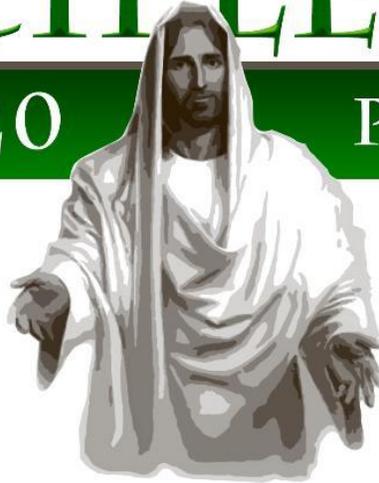


DISCIPLESHIP

2020

PNCC



DISCIPLESHIP: 2020

PNCC FUTURE DIRECTION - ACTION PLAN FOR PNCC PARISHES BASED ON THE EFFORTS OF THE 24TH & 25TH PNCC GENERAL SYNODS

Continue to develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2020: *Our purpose is to strengthen all members in their following of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This will give us a better sense of ourselves as the Church. During 2020 we will examine the lives of some of the early disciples of our Lord and their discipleship virtues to see what we can learn from them and apply to our daily living.* Please see the monthly Future Direction messages regarding this effort with reflections for living this out daily.

Questions for Reflection each month: Name a few important “discipleship qualities” that the figure(s) demonstrate? Which one would you personally like to better emulate? How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?

These questions could also be used in the parish for a monthly adult reflection session on the figure(s) noted below.

JANUARY – JOHN THE BAPTIST: FORTITUDE, HUMILITY

Matthew 3:1-17; John 1:15-36, 3:22-30

Reflection Question: John the Baptist called others to repent and prepare for the Lord Jesus. How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously?

Begin planning/implementation of the Parish Assessment

FEBRUARY – SIMEON AND ANNA IN THE TEMPLE: PIETY, COMPASSION

Luke 2:22-38

Reflection Question: Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah and told others in the Temple about Him. Can you come up with 2 practical ways by which you can do the same?

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

MARCH – MARTHA AND MARY OF BETHANY: PRAYERFULNESS, SERVICE

Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45

Reflection Question: Martha and Mary together give us a balanced model of the aspects of our discipleship. Do you have this same balance of prayer and service in your daily life? What can you do to achieve it?

Schedule Mass for Healing
Schedule and conduct Lenten Retreat

APRIL – MARY MAGDALENE: FAITHFULNESS, FORTITUDE

Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:33-47; John 20:1-18

Reflection Question: Mary Magdalene was faithful to our Lord even at the foot of the Cross and so Jesus rewarded her with being the first witness to his Resurrection. How can you better follow her example of unconditional faithfulness to Christ in your own life?

MAY – ST. PETER: HUMILITY, TRUST

Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 26:31-35; John 21:1-19

Reflection Question: Peter did not feel worthy to accept the Lord's call and he was right. Yet, he followed and Jesus used him to boldly proclaim the Gospel to others and to give the greatest witness in his martyrdom. How can you overcome your own sense of unworthiness and embrace God's great plan for you?

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

JUNE – SAINTS JAMES AND JOHN: SONS OF THUNDER, APOSTLES OF LOVE

Mark 3:13-19; Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 20:20-28

Reflection Question: Jesus taught the "Sons of Thunder" that true honor and greatness come from putting the needs of others before your own and becoming a servant. Do you sometimes do things so that others will see you doing them instead of doing them out of love? How can you better learn the lesson that James and John learned as disciples of Jesus?

Remember Clergy Appreciation Weekend & Sacred Vocations Month

JULY – ST. PAUL: REPENTANCE, FORTITUDE AND SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE

Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-20; Romans 8:18-27; 2 Tim 4:1-8

Reflection Question: Paul understood the sacrifices that had to be made for the sake of the Gospel and he willingly made them. Have you ever been called to sacrifice something as a disciple of Jesus? How can you prepare this month to be able to give up things of the world for the sake of the Eternal Kingdom of God?

Schedule Mass for those Grieving

AUGUST – THE CANAANITE WOMAN: PERSISTENCE, HUMILITY

Matthew 15:21-31

Reflection Question: The Canaanite Woman persisted in her request for healing even when Jesus tested her faith. How do you respond when you petition the Lord through prayer but don't receive an immediate response?

SEPTEMBER – ST. BARNABAS: GENEROSITY, FORTITUDE

Acts 4:32-37, 9:22-27, 14:8-20, 15:1-29

Reflection Question: Barnabas was called "son of encouragement" by the Apostles. In what ways can you follow his example and encourage others this month on their own journeys as disciples of Jesus?

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

OCTOBER – THE HOLY THEOTOKOS: HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, COMPASSION AND EVERY VIRTUE

Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-19; John 19:25-30; Acts 1:13-14, 2:1-4

Reflection Question: The Mother of God is the first and greatest disciple of her Son, faithful from the Annunciation to the Ascension and then still prayerfully present with the Church at Pentecost. How can you better emulate her consistent faithfulness to God when faced with both great sorrows and times of joy?

NOVEMBER – ST. MATTHEW: SELF DISCIPLINE

Matthew 9:1-13, 10:1-42; Matthew 5:1-12, 25:31-46

Reflection Question: When Jesus called Matthew the tax collector to follow Him, he did so despite what others said about him. Have you ever been the one to deem someone else unworthy of being a disciple of Jesus in some way? How can you overcome such perceptions and instead help strengthen others in their discipleship?

Schedule Mass and Breakfast for those who serve

Schedule Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

Report of the Parish Assessment

DECEMBER – ST. JOSEPH – PROTECTOR OF THE LORD: OBEDIENCE, TRUST, PATIENCE

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-52

Reflection Question: St. Joseph was obedient to the will of the Father even when asked to do some very difficult things. Have you struggled to embrace God's will for your life in the past? How can you spiritually prepare to more fully surrender your life as a disciple of Jesus?

Schedule and conduct Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

PARISH ASSESSMENT – PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

Steady and lasting *Growth* in “readiness” to reach out and welcome others to our Church and Parishes.

What and how will it be done: Focus on two project areas for parishes to systematically put their house in order both physically and spiritually. Some parishes are better maintained than others, but no parish is ever complete. Just as in our own spiritual lives there is always room for improvement, and we are never complete. We must keep moving forward in some way.

Phase 1: The outcomes of this phase would be twofold: first, the plan itself and then the actual execution of the plan resulting in improved grounds and church building.

Phase 2: The outcomes of this phase would also be twofold: first, the assessment and plan itself and then the actual execution of the plan resulting in improved (or at least confirmed satisfactory state of) the liturgical life of the parish.

Final outcome: Parishes with increased internal readiness that leads out to external growth in membership; feeling a sense of humble and grateful pride at what God had helped them accomplish and a growing sense of healthy confidence that they are truly ready to welcome others who are seeking a spiritual home.

This is really grounded in the observation that perhaps we are not as ready as we might think to welcome new growth in membership and the notion that every parish can and must continue to improve itself.

SPECIAL MASSES

Again have at least two Special Masses and open them to the community. This would be in addition to our Sunday Mass. During Lent have a Mass for Healing and invite all those who are ill, hurting spiritually or emotionally to attend and spend time in prayer, to hear God's Word and receive Christ in the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Anointing. Use the Mass for Healing during Lent – this will be emailed to all clergy as a reminder at the beginning of Lent.

In the fall (November) have a Mass to Salute those who Serve - for your first responders/those in military service and Veterans. This Mass could be followed by a meal to honor those who serve/who have served. You could also have a Mass in time of tragedy when the need may arise in your community or our nation. These could be followed by a time of fellowship and food at the parish.

You could also schedule a Mass for those grieving anytime during the Church Liturgical Year.

Welcome the community to these Masses by promoting them in your local media and newspaper, as well as fliers and social media. Invite other local groups to join you for these Masses.

CONTINUE THE BUSINESS FREE ZONE

For 10-15 minutes prior to the celebration of Holy Mass have a time where the pastor is unavailable for Church business and that no other things are being discussed but a focus on the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. This will continue to bring an enhanced spirituality and reverence for the Eucharist to our parishes. Encourage use of the introductory pages of the Mass booklet – *especially page 8* as well as prayers from our Prayer Book preparing for Holy Mass and Confession.

CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Short two minutes messages by various members speaking to our Year of Discipleship on YouTube. Continue to post monthly messages to our Facebook page and videos to YouTube and ask our members to share them. We hope more will be reached and encouraged to participate in these efforts. Parishes should have a presence of Social Media to promote their Special Masses and events. Consider streaming Holy Mass live on the internet and use these tools to promote the work of the parish. Pastors are also encouraged to record and share their Masses and Para Liturgical Services.

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

WINE AND CHEESE CLUB OR SOUP, SANDWICH AND SERMON

Continue to gather for adult education and formation in our Christian Catholic faith. Perhaps you could use the questions for reflection from the monthly figures for 2020 above. This can be done via the Soup, Sandwich and Sermon Concept, Wine and Cheese Gatherings concept (based on the Pub Theology: Beer, Conversation and God), using a Book Club format or even via online.

TWO DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Lent and one other (Advent) Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and one other time in 2020 to spend in retreat and prayer. This can be done on either a parish or seniorate level. Ideas for the Retreat include: Mass of the Day, special Lenten/Advent service of Penance, Scripture Readings/Reflections and Meditations, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; For Lent: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Lamentations, etc. This can be open and advertised to the local community.

COMPLETE AT LEAST SIX COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

It is important that the six projects be done in the local community of the parish so that these efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community.

Various options include but are not limited to: blood drives, a project to aid an assisted living facility, or other care facility i.e. nursing home, group home; volunteering for a special needs event; having a Mass or event for your local widow's group; aiding a family crisis center, food drives, serving a free meal for the community, providing a community breakfast/meal for First Responders – for Veterans; prayer blanket ministry, clothing drive for the community, sponsoring a local family in need, and/or responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

The 5 Themes for the Future Direction of our Holy Church from the 24th PNCC General Synod and further expanded upon at the 25th PNCC General Synod

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| I. Growth and Membership | II. Increase Spirituality |
| III. Lifelong Learning | IV. Sacred Vocations |
| V. Community Involvement | |