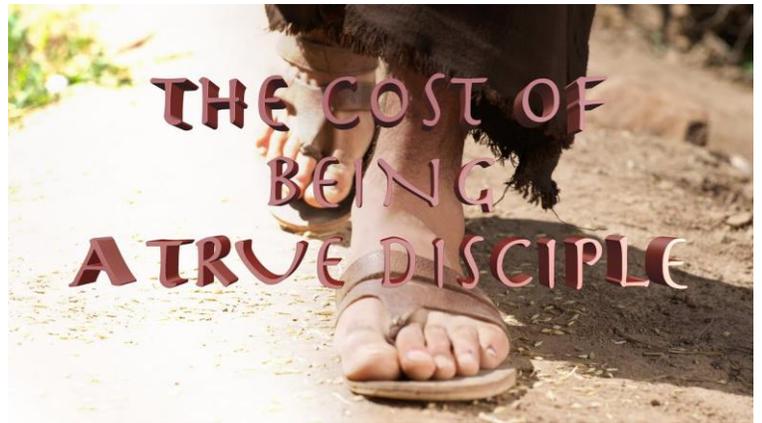


PNCC Future Direction October 2019 Message: The Cost of Discipleship

It is not going to be easy, but it is going to be worth it! Jesus said to them all: *“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”* Luke 9:23

So as we begin October we are in our tenth month of a renewed focus and dedication to become better and more faithful disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and I ask you a question Bishop Mack posed in a recent article: “What have you accomplished?”



Are you picking up the cross daily and following Jesus? Are you denying yourself? Our Lord didn't say sit back and relax and say all is going to be easy because you are my disciples. But rather we are to go out and live and spread the Gospel of Salvation. And we do this even more so with our actions and our choices more so than our words. Being a disciple of our Lord is taking the road less traveled, the narrow way, the way that puts God and others before self, the way that chooses to do for others before worrying about oneself. Jesus needs to be the standard – the example we follow in our life! *After Jesus had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.* John 13:12-15

Being a disciple of our Lord can cost you much – friends, even family, comfort and worldly pleasures, but if we live our lives in loving service as our Lord's disciples then we will find true purpose, meaning and happiness in our life. Even as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Christian Family this month, we are reminded by Jesus who our brothers and sisters are. *‘While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”* Matthew 12:46-50

Our society and world tell us in so many ways to take care of yourself first and don't worry about taking responsibility for things – a message diametrically opposed to the Gospel and teaching of Jesus. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6). So, what sacrifices have we made to grow closer to Jesus? To become a more genuine Disciple? As disciples we are all to preach the Gospel and only use words when necessary. Are we doing this?

Also, during the month of October, the Church honors our Blessed Mother and celebrates the Solemnity of our Holy Mother of the Rosary. Attached is a refection: To Imitate and Obtain: The Rosary within Family Discipleship. Thanks to Rev. Scott Lill for this meaningful reflection. Let us make sure that as our Lord's disciples we pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Works of Mercy

CORPORAL	SPIRITUAL
1. Feed the hungry	1. Counsel the doubtful
2. Give drink to the thirsty	2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Clothe the naked	3. Admonish the sinner
4. Shelter the homeless	4. Comfort the afflicted
5. Visit the sick	5. Forgive offenses
6. Visit the imprisoned	6. Bear wrongs patiently
7. Bury the dead	7. Pray for the living & the dead

Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church. Like us, follow and share our updates on Facebook too.

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at FutureDirection@pncc.org to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

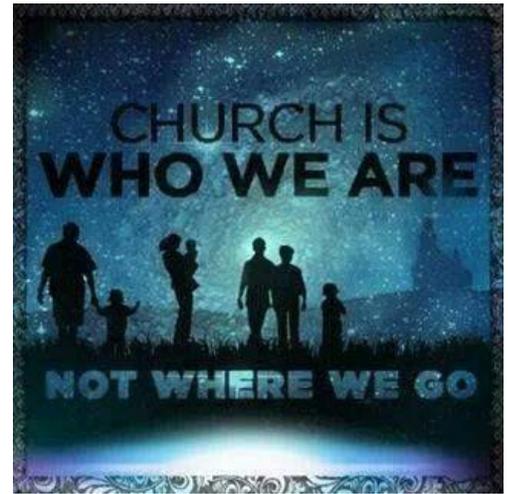
Let our discipleship be a clear example to others that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Let us follow Him faithfully regardless of the cost.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1 style="color: blue;">October 2019</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Diocese PNCC Mission / Evangelism Prayer: The Cost of Discipleship</p>					<p>For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you...</p>	<p>He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. ~ 1 Peter 2:21</p>
<p>Let us imitate His constancy; if we should suffer because of His name, let us give Him</p>	<p>that glory. For this is the personal example He has given us... the object of our faith. (Polycarp)</p>	<p>1 Christ bore our sins on the cross so that we might die to sin & live a life of holiness. (1 Pt.2)</p>	<p>2 “Be steadfast, then and follow the Lord’s example, strong & unshaken in faith...</p>	<p>3 ...loving the community as you love one another.” ~St. Polycarp, letter to Philippians</p>	<p>4 Don’t be anxious when evils threaten - God is very near as your Protector. (Read Psalm 91)</p>	<p>5 For the sake of Christ I am content with my weaknesses and frustrations. (2 Cor. 12:10)</p>
<p>6 “Be silent when discretion requires and speak when words are of service.” ~Gregory</p>	<p>7 [Jesus said,] “If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it....</p>	<p>8 ...But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.” ~ Luke 9:24 (NLT)</p>	<p>9 (1 Tim.4:10) We toil & struggle for this reason: we have put our trust in the living God.</p>	<p>10 Take some time to read through 2 Corinthians 4. How does this apply to your life?</p>	<p>11 May we walk closely with Jesus and not return to our old ways. See Luke 11: 15-26.</p>	<p>12 Read Luke 10 and prayerfully consider how God is calling you to labor in His harvest.</p>
<p>13 Christian Family “...as members of one body, you are called to live in peace.” (Col. 3:15)</p>	<p>14 “Listening to another person might be the greatest act of compassion...</p>	<p>15...it is the easiest way to welcome someone into your heart.” ~Bob Burnham</p>	<p>16 “Everything is a divine mystery because all comes from God.” Behold His wonders!</p>	<p>17 (Luke 11:42-46) How can I help to lighten someone’s burden today?</p>	<p>18 (Luke 10:1-9) Lord Jesus, use me to prepare others for an encounter with You.</p>	<p>19 (Luke 12:8-12) May we see Jesus in the face of each person we meet today.</p>
<p>20 Pray for clergy and for the ones God is calling as bishops to shepherd His people.</p>	<p>21 Jesus asks nothing of us without giving us the strength to perform it ~D. Bonhoeffer</p>	<p>22 Read Luke 12:35-38. Are you “dressed for action?” What does this mean for you?</p>	<p>23 What need in your community is God calling you to meet? Listen, and obey.</p>	<p>24 Raphael the Archangel ~ his name means, “God heals”. Pray for all who are ill.</p>	<p>25 “If you want peace work for justice.” Lord, order our steps in this endeavor.</p>	<p>26 “The world exercises dominion by force and Christ & Christians conquer by service.” (DB)</p>
<p>27 (Luke 18:9-14) May we recognize our own need for forgiveness. Lord, have mercy.</p>	<p>28 Bring all of your needs, great and small, to the Father in prayer. Jesus did. (Luke 6)</p>	<p>29 “The secret of the kingdom of God is to allow Jesus to grow in us.” <u>Sacred Space</u></p>	<p>30 Guide us, Lord, in the narrow way that leads to you. (Luke 13:22-30)</p>	<p>31 “To deny oneself is to be aware only of Christ and no more of self...”</p>	<p>...to see only Him who goes before and no more the road which is too hard for us.”</p>	<p>~ <u>The Cost of Discipleship</u>, Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)</p>