



# The Parish Pastoral Council: The Engine for Building Communities of Disciples

## Part Two

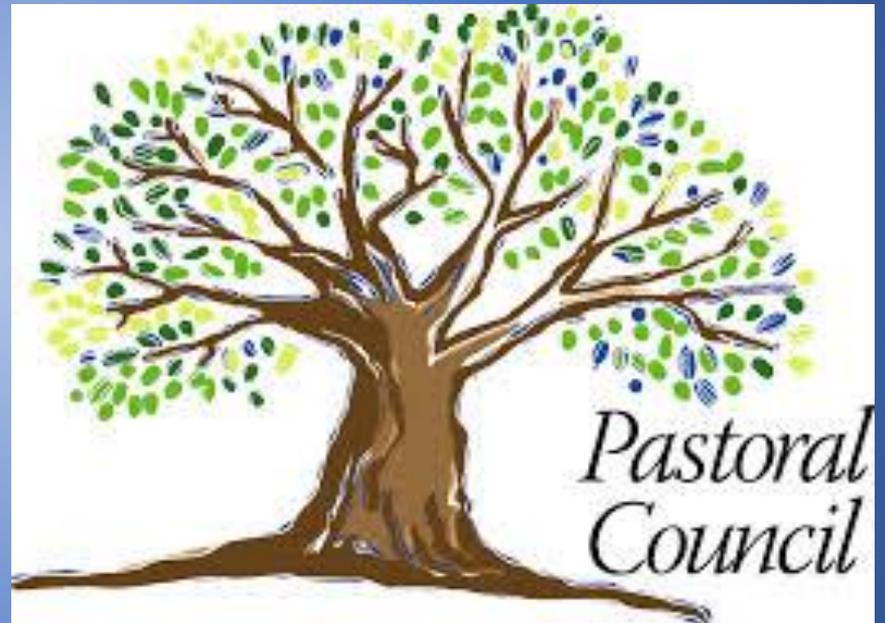
Archdiocese of Galveston- Houston

April 7, 2018

Mark Mogilka

# Part Two – Overview

- Call to Discipleship  
(Adult Formation)
- Getting Started
- Basic Strategies



“What I would like to propose is something much more in line with an *evangelical discernment*. It is the approach of a **missionary disciple...**”

Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium - # 50

“The church that  
“goes forth”  
is a community of  
*missionary*  
*disciples*”

Evangelii Gaudium - #24



“We do many things as church leaders.

- Build Buildings
- Design Programs
- Staff churches
- Put on Events
- Rally people – new initiatives



***But are we making disciples?*** Have we become proficient in many things – yet deficient in the one thing that matters most?”

Transformational Discipleship – Geiger et al - 2012

# Create Parish Culture of Expectation, Responsibility - of Discipleship for All

**Move** the Community from;

Cultural Catholics – to – Intentional Catholics

Consumers – to – Contributors

Observers - to - Participants

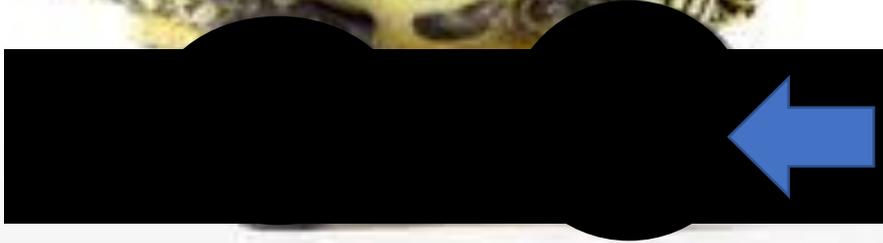
Disengaged – to – Actively Engaged

Good Parish– to – ***Great Parish*** of

## **Committed Disciples!**

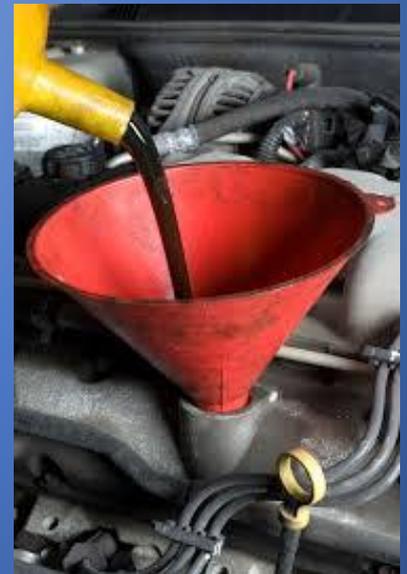


CATHOLICS



*The  
Holy Spirit*

*a lot of good  
hard work!*



# The Seven Last Words of the Church

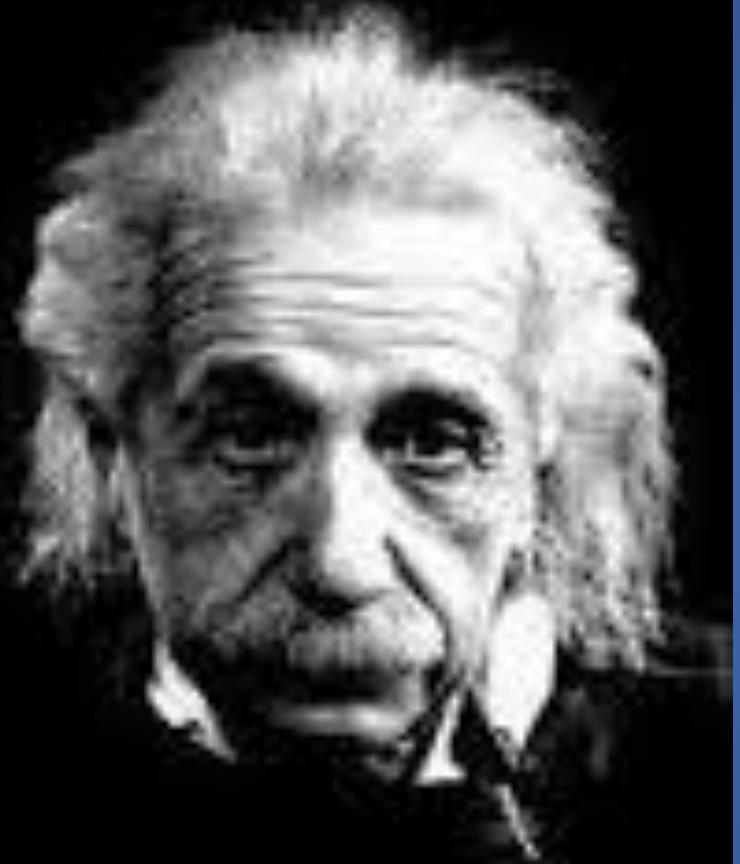
“abandon the complacent attitude that says

“we have always done it this way”



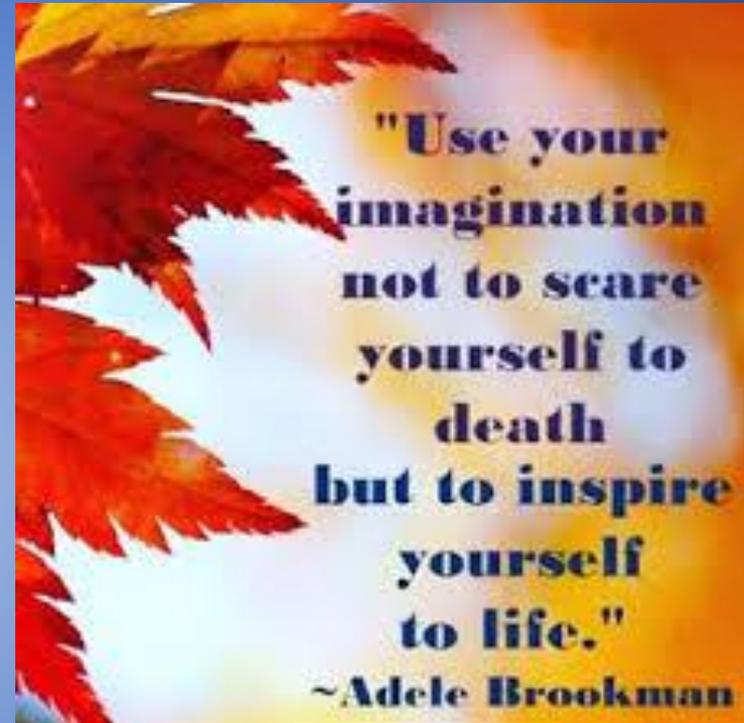
Pope Francis – Evangelii Gaudium #33

"WE CANNOT  
SOLVE OUR  
PROBLEMS  
WITH THE SAME  
THINKING WE  
USED WHEN WE  
CREATED THEM"



“ An organization that spends more time thinking about its past than about its future – is an organization that is **dying**”

Matthew Kelly





“God is not afraid of  
**new things!**”

That is why he is constantly  
surprising us, opening our  
hearts and guiding us in  
unexpected ways.”

Pope Francis – Oct. 19, 2014  
Closing Mass of Synod on Families

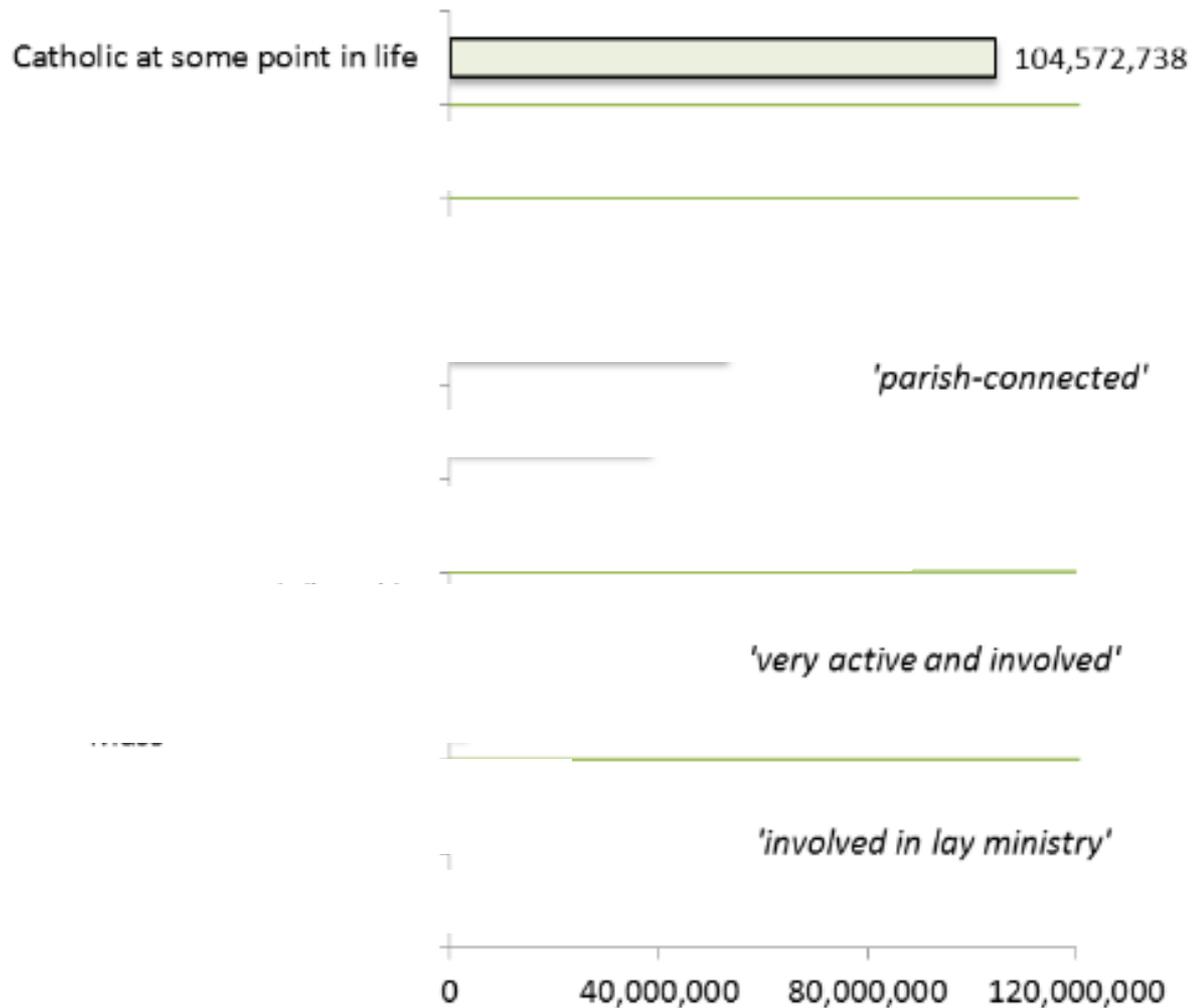
# Placing the Challenge – the Opportunity - into context

- How do we welcome new people?
- How do we help “Catholics” take a step in faith?



## U.S. Catholic Populations and Parish Life, 2014

Generally, each group is a subset of those above it



# Where to Begin?

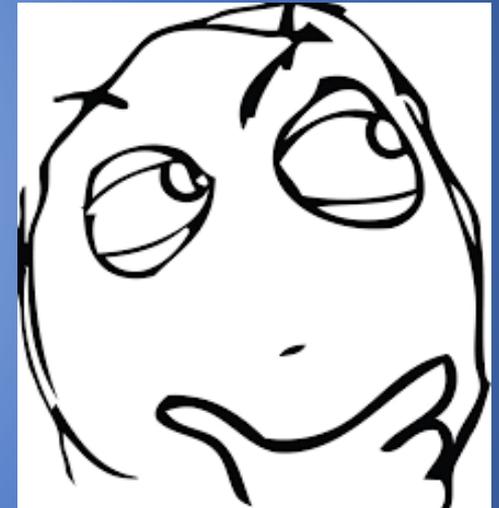
“Structure and organizational reforms are secondary – that is they come afterward”

“The first reform must be attitude. Ministers of the Gospel must be people who can warm the hearts of the people...”

Pope Francis - Curial Speech – 12/21/13

# Key Question

- What is My Basic Attitude toward Disciple Making?
  - Fear, Anxiety, Problems?
  - Excitement, Anticipation, Possibilities?



**Beware of Self Fulfilling  
Prophecies – Where Do You Begin?**

# You!

## Who Me?



# Jesus Relationship Stages

1. Awareness of Jesus
2. Curious about
3. Friends of
4. Somewhat Close Friends
5. Intimate Friends With (***Intentional Disciples***)
6. Christ Centered Life (***Missionary Disciples***)



# Your Primary Mission Fields

- Your Living Room



- Your Neighborhood



- Your Workplace



# For the Parish – Broaden Your Vision!

- 2012 – Weddell – *Forming Intentional Disciples*

- White & Corcoran – *Rebuilt*

- **2013 – Pope Francis – *Evangelii Gaudium***

- 2014 – Mallon – *Divine Renovation*

- 2018 – Archdiocesan Website – Pastoral Plan Best Practices



**Caution - Consumer Driven – Status Quo  
Approaches**

# Consider Pastoral Council Community of Discipleship Formation

- Every Two Years
- Six Months to year – formation in Discipleship before beginning two years of service



# Engaging Catholics

Keys to success - **People rarely volunteer – they need to be asked**

- The more personal
- The more important
- The clearer the job description
- Time commitment clarity
- Availability of training
- Promise of support and resources
- Ability to match need and talents

# Engagement

- Best recruiters – those currently involved
- Great resource – welcoming/newcomers to the parish
- Get volunteers started with **shorter time** and **flexible time commitment**
- Time Talent Survey
- Ministry Fair
- Gift Discernment Strategy

# Parish Criteria for Success?



“A Church’s health is measured  
by its *sending* capacity  
not its seating capacity”

Warren – Purpose Driven Church - 1995

# Disciple Making – Two Approaches

“believe in the *Core Work* of helping people deepen their communion with Christ and sustain that within the church”

Bill Huebsch – Dreams and Visions - 2007



# Relationship With God?

“Only 48% of Catholics were absolutely sure that the God they believed in, was a God with whom they could have a personal relationship.”



Pew Research cited by Sherry Weddell – Forming Intentional Disciples - 2012

# Disciple Making - Strategy One

## Life Journey – Process

“Hence the need for a pedagogy that will introduce people **step by step** to the full appropriation of the mystery”



Pope Francis – Evangelii Gaudium #170

“most practicing **Catholics** are stalled, and **stalled** people are often satisfied, if not complacent, in their mediocrity. It is the job of the pastor to **provide impetus** for **growth** on a regular basis..”



Pierre Hegy – Wake Up Lazarus - 2011

# Rebuilt

“What we did was make church all about who wasn’t there and started challenging those who were there to grow.”



White & Corcoran – Rebuilt - 2013

# Life Journey Strategies

- Mass & Sacraments
  - Welcome
  - Homily
  - Music
- Get people engaged
- Inter-generational activities
- Stewardship
- Bible Studies
- Parish Missions
- Small Groups



# Disciple Making – Strategy Two

## Transformative Opportunities

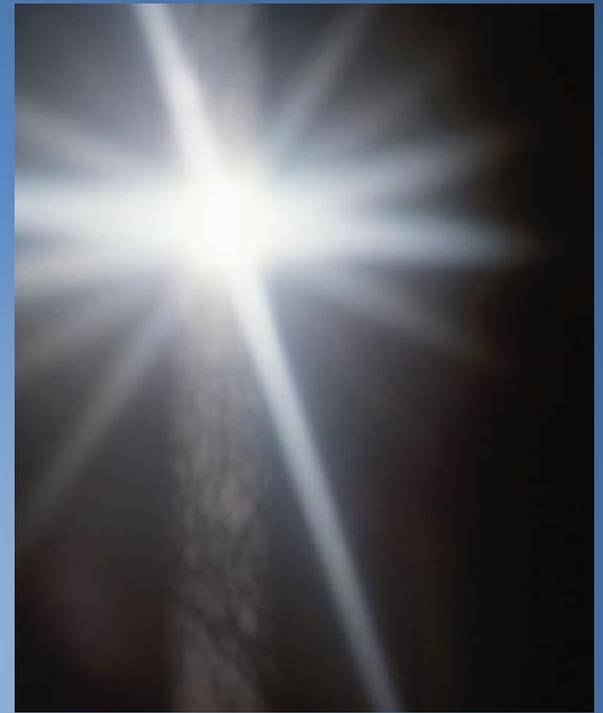
“necessary to build opportunities for  
*encounters with Christ* into parish life”

Bill Huebsch – Dreams and Visions - 2007



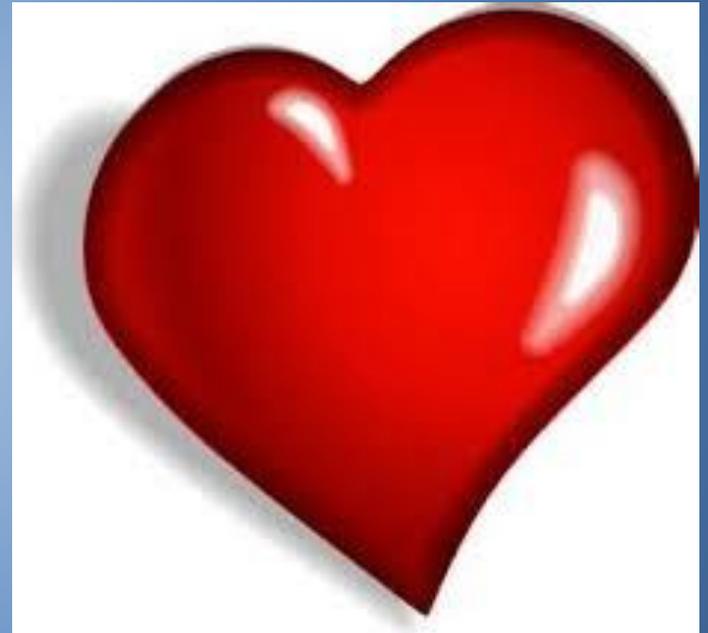
“Among the highly engaged Catholics..., 89% described a conversion experience – an event in their life that won them to a more engaged relationship with God”

Some “got it” by going on a retreat, pilgrimage, went to a conference, had a life altering event, death of a loved one, weekend experience, a small group or mission trip.”



# What Changes Hearts?

- Spirit Led Role Models
- Significant Encounters
  - Christ Renews His Parish
- Mission Trips
- Small Groups
  - Catholic Alpha



# More Parish Heart Changers

- Christ Renews His Parish
  - Now part of Dynamic Catholic
- Light of the World
  - [WWW.lotwem.org/](http://WWW.lotwem.org/)
- Alpha
  - <http://alphausa.org/catholic>
- Amazing Parish
  - [www.amazingparish.org](http://www.amazingparish.org)



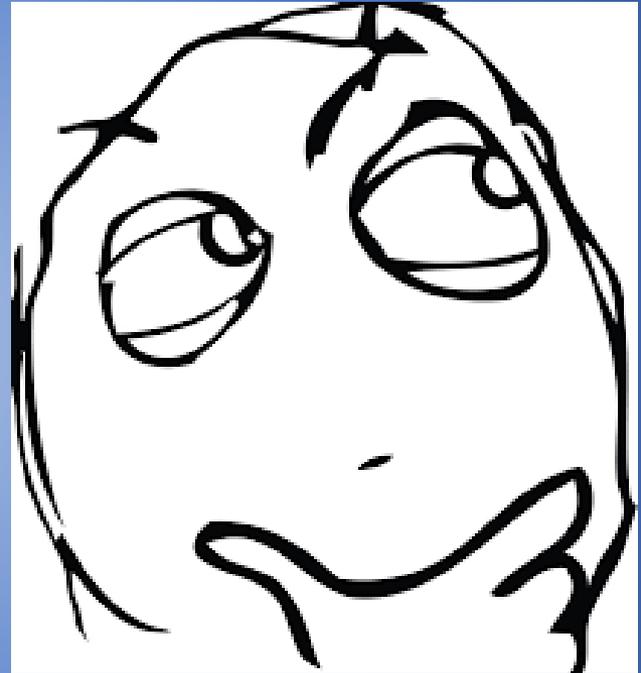
## A Key Question

How can the parish put more time, talent & treasure into disciple making activities?

(what should the parish say no to – so that it can say yes to more disciple making?)

# So..., In Silence...,

- What are 1 – 2 things that struck you in this presentation that you would like to take back to your parish?



# Final Thought - Pope Francis



“Don’t be scared,  
dare to have  
fabulous plans.  
I encourage you to  
not be afraid,  
to dream,  
to have great ideals,  
to **be builders of hope.**”

Thank you!



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