

## Discipleship Pathways

### Part 1: The What and the Why

#### What is the mission of the Church?

- **EN 14:** “‘We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church.’ ... Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize”
- **LG 5:** “From this source the Church ... receives the mission to proclaim and to spread among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God”
- **AG 2:** “The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature”
- **Doctrinal Note 2:** “The term evangelization has a very rich meaning. In the broad sense, it sums up the Church’s entire mission: her whole life consists in accomplishing the proclamation and handing on of the Gospel”
- **Disciples Called to Witness, pg. 5:** “The Church’s *ad gentes* (‘to the world’) mission given to her by Christ is the proclamation of the Good News to those who do not know him.”

#### What is a Discipleship Pathway?

- A Discipleship Pathway is a simple, intentional, and integrated process by which the parish meets the spiritual needs of people and facilitates progression along the journey of faith that leads to missionary discipleship.
- It is your plan to:
  - accompany parishioners and guests to encounter Christ, and
  - assist parishioners and guests to deepen their relationship with Him (individually and as a community) so that,
  - empowered by the Holy Spirit and growing intentionally in the image and likeness of Christ, they proclaim the Good News to others by their words, actions, and the witness of their lives.
- It is your way of saying: This is how we make missionary disciples here.
- It is not the extent of what your parish is doing, just what you’re *prioritizing* in order to make missionary disciples.

#### Why does your parish need a Discipleship Pathway?

1. A Discipleship Pathway aligns your parish mission with the mission of the Church.
2. It provides order and direction, so that you’re not proceeding haphazardly and you’re more likely to succeed.
3. It brings a new intentionality and deliberateness to your decision-making.
4. It filters all decision-making through the objective lens of the mission.
5. It can be a catalyst for parish staff and leadership cohesion.
6. It provides for volunteer leaders a new orientation, purpose, importance for ministry.
7. It makes it clear to visitors and to regulars how the parish can serve them.

*On the back is the PED Diagram, which informs the creation of your Discipleship Pathway ...*



## PROCESS OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP DIAGRAM

