

# **FIVE WAYS PARISHES CAN PROMOTE THE PASTORAL LETTER *WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?***

## **BACKGROUND:**

During the remainder of 2013, it will be critical for the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to review, understand and discuss Archbishop Lestek's Pastoral Letter, "Who Do You Say That I Am?," because it will lay the ground work for an Archdiocesan Synod in 2014. It will also be vital that the community – pastoral and parish leadership along with parishioners – embrace this letter so as to create a sense of excitement and interest in the future direction of the Catholic Church in southeastern Wisconsin. It is critical for leaders in the Archdiocese to take time to fully understand the Pastoral Letter, discuss the implications of this Letter and create dialogue on how the Pastoral Letter's focus on ecclesiology will impact parish life throughout the archdiocese. With that in mind, here are five ways parishes may wish to promote it:

1. **Identify existing forums where small groups can reflect on the letter.** Such forums could be Pastoral Council meetings, existing Commission meetings, ministry meetings and/or other types of leadership meetings. Consider adding the Pastoral Letter to your agenda and reflecting on just one section as a way to gradually create awareness and encourage reflection.
2. **Capture testimonials or short quotes from individuals who have participated in small group discussion and promote them through various parish channels** such as website, Facebook, and e-mail. Sample quote: "For me, 'Who do you say that I am?' is a question that comes my way each time I'm faced with a major decision in my life. It forces me to draw upon my faith and belief that the Incarnate One knows and understands all my fears and yet calls on me to trust in Him."
3. **Capture testimonials on Flip Cam or smart phone video and promote it via e-mail or your parish Facebook page.** Testimonials can simply answer the question, "When in life have you been faced with the question, 'Who do you say that I am?'"
4. **Use the Pastoral Letter as a teaching aid in religious education or adult faith formation venues.** Break it into pieces and allow participants time to pray and reflect on the Letter.
5. **Pastors, Parish Administrators and Parish Directors: Consider writing a reflection or letter to parishioners about the Pastoral Letter.** Distribute it via e-mail or in your bulletin. Post it on your website and share with school families via the "take home" folder. Share your own personal witness on when you are faced with the question, "Who do you say that I am?"

## **COMING SOON!**

Additional ways parishes can promote the Pastoral Letter among parishioners:

1. **Video** being produced by the Archdiocese that will provide a visual synopsis of the Pastoral Letter.
2. **Bulletin cover** which will be provided by the Archdiocese this fall as a way to promote the upcoming parish dialogue sessions.