

# MISSIONARY LEADER *Update*

**Archdiocese of Milwaukee**

**Office of Missionary Planning & Leadership**

The *Update* is designed to inspire, inform, engage, and empower leaders in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee so that they are equipped for data-informed mission-driven planning and leadership.

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## Answering the Call to Lead: Pastoral Council 101

Representatives from throughout the 10 counties of the archdiocese meet regularly with Archbishop ListECKI at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) meetings to consult on matters related to pastoral activity and the mission of the Church.

Each Parish Pastoral Council is required to designate two members to attend Deanery Assembly meetings, where representatives are then chosen to attend the APC meetings with the Archbishop. The APC serves as an advisory body to the Archbishop.

One of the ways your parish's Deanery Assembly Representative, and potentially as an APC representative, serves your parish and the archdiocese is by seeking ideas and suggestions from your Pastoral Council that can be brought to the deanery assembly for possible discussion by the APC and Archbishop.

Learn more about selecting these representatives from your parish in the [Pastoral Council Norms](#), Section 10, page 6.

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## Lent is a Time to Discover True Joy

Far from being a dark and dreary penitential season, Lent is truly a time of joy-filled anticipation.

*"A selfish faith would be an unreal faith. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ and enters into the dynamic of love that finds its source in the Eucharist discovers true joy and becomes capable in turn of living according to the logic of this gift. True faith is illumined by love and leads toward love. ... God is not isolation, but glorious and joyful love, spreading outward and radiant with light."*

**—Pope Benedict XVI**

The Church gives us the season of Lent as a means to guide us in our search for lasting happiness. Far from being a dark and dreary penitential season, Lent is truly a time of joy-filled anticipation. It is intended to ready us for "the glorious and joyful love" that is still to come at Easter time.

The Lenten practices that we are invited to embrace during this holy season—prayer, fasting and almsgiving—are meant to strengthen us. As an athlete prepares for the events that will win him or her a crown of victory, we Christians discipline our minds, hearts and bodies in

anticipation of the Lord's victory over sin and death. We steel our souls in anticipation of the ecstasy to come—the exultant, overwhelming joy of Easter.

Why is Lent necessary? Why not simply bask in the Easter sun that we know dawned for us—once and for all—more than 2,000 years ago? Why deny ourselves the good things that we enjoy all year-round when

Christ has given us everything we could hope for?

Lent is a time of self-denial. It is necessary to remind us that we are still called to repent, to change our ways of thinking and acting so that we can believe in, and be transformed by, the Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ. Lent is needed to keep us spiritually fit.

Lenten observances prepare us for the evangelizing mission that the Risen Lord gave to us, his disciples, just before he ascended into heaven to sit at his Father's right hand. Lent prepares us for the gift of the Holy Spirit that comes as a consequence of the Lord's Passion, death and resurrection.

We need Lent because we never want to take for granted "the glorious and joyful love, spreading outward and radiant with light" that the Holy Father tells us is God's gift of himself freely given to us through Jesus' supreme sacrifice on the Cross.

We need Lent for the same reason that we need the sacrament of penance. We are sinners who need to be cleansed and healed before we are truly able to experience God's forgiveness in the holy Eucharist and in the Easter mystery.

What are the three main disciplines we are called to observe during Lent? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving—generous sharing.

The Church urges us to pray more fervently during Lent. She invites us to come to know and love our Savior more intimately and completely. We Christians believe that the fullness of joy comes in communion with God. Prayer now helps to prepare us for the intense joy of Easter and the eternal happiness of heaven.

Prayer also helps us to learn patience, perseverance and the ability to accept suffering in whatever forms it takes. We are called to follow Jesus, and his way leads through bitter suffering and cruel death to Easter joy.

The Church asks us to fast during Lent. She reminds us, in the words of Pope Benedict, that "a selfish faith would be an unreal faith." To be genuinely happy, we must first learn to be unselfish, deny ourselves, and live for God and for all our sisters and brothers. The things we deny ourselves during Lent are sacramentals. They remind us of, and help prepare us for, the much larger sacrifices that are required of us as disciples and martyrs called to witness to the Way of the Cross.

Finally, the Church challenges us to be generous stewards of all God's gifts. Stewardship is not seasonal. It places demands on us all year long—and our whole lives. The tradition of Lenten almsgiving provides us with an opportunity to practice the virtue of stewardship, and to make a conscious effort to share with others the gifts of time, talent and money that God has so generously given to us. Stewardship is a virtue that has to be put into practice—one generous act at a time!

Do you want to be happy? Pray, fast and give to others. Do you want to find perfect joy? Journey through Lent to Easter, and your joy will be complete!

**Editorial by**—Daniel Conway, Archdioceses of Indianapolis, March 2, 2012

## Planning Tools: Missionary Parish Identity Assessment

## (Part Five in a Series)

The Office of Missionary Planning and Leadership supports parish leaders in the missionary development and growth of your parish with our Planning Toolbox.

This month we want you to be aware of a tool called Missionary Parish Identity Assessment. This tool is based on national research and demonstrated parish success. The survey tool identifies and measures 10 key areas that make a parish thrive in mission. Parishes survey key stakeholders and collate the results. A trainer from our office will then assist you in identifying opportunities for growth. Contact the Office of Missionary Planning and Leadership for more information.

(This series began in October 2021 and is featured in previous [Missionary Leader Update newsletters](#).)



## GalileeU – Upcoming Sessions For Parish Leaders

It's not so much that the Church has a mission, as that the mission has a Church.

Consider attending this learning session:

- **Mission of the Church: Mission Essentials – March 31, Noon - 1 pm (virtual)**

In this session, we explore the essentials of this mission, how to get or stay on mission, and tools/resources for the mission.

Visit the [GalileeU](#) webpage for more information and registration links. Invite your fellow parish leaders!

## Leading Like Jesus

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on it’s stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

-Matthew 5: 13-16

1. How do you refresh and refuel so that you can continue to be an effective leader?
2. Do people see the light of your faith when you step forward in your call to lead?
3. Do you notice and encourage the light shining in others people who are stepping up or growing into new leadership roles?

## MissionInsite Information and Updates

The parish census lists on file with the archdiocesan development office have been uploaded into MissionInsite. They will provide the most up to date information when plotting parish members on the map.

Also, Missioninsite also announced that the updated 2021 National Quadrennium survey data (American Beliefs, Preferences and Practices) is available. You will find new information for your community in the MinistryInsite and ReligiousInsite reports.

Please contact us if you need more information on registering as a MissionInsite user for your parish.

## We are still here for you.

Since Rich Harter left the Office of Missionary Planning and Leadership in mid-December, we have been very busy developing a transition plan for our office to best support parishes and the archdiocese. Laura Engel will lead Parish Councils, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC), and leadership development projects. Michael Laird will lead Archdiocesan and Parish Planning projects. Rosalita Villa will coordinate the Missionary Leader Update newsletter, lead MissionInsite usage, and the administrative support needs of planning and leadership as needed.

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