

***Office of Missionary Planning and Leadership:  
New Director, New Name, New Focus***

By Rich Harter, M.T.S

***New Office Director***

I am humbled and honored to report that as of the middle of September 2019, I was promoted to the position of Director of Missionary Leadership and Planning for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. I am very excited to serve you, the faithful leaders of the archdiocese, in this new role. I have served the Lord and His Church in a variety of capacities over the last 40 years. Luckily I began at age 5! (That's for those of you who are doing the math!) I very much look forward the opportunities that this new position will bring in the next 40 years. (Well, maybe not that many!)

***New Office Name***

We have changed the office name from "Planning and Councils" to "Missionary Planning and Leadership" for a very important and intentional reason. The Church herself is "missionary." Jesus himself gave the Church her missionary marching orders when he said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples" (Matthew 28:16-20). That's our mission: Go make disciples!

God has been on mission from the moment of creation when He formed us for himself and gave us our true identity as daughters and sons of the Father. When we lost our way through sin, the Father went on mission to save us through His Son Jesus. To continue His saving mission for all people throughout time, Jesus imbedded himself and his mission into His Body of the Church. As the Bride of Christ, the Church is the mission of Jesus. Just as Jesus did, the Church exists to make disciples.

So the office has a new name because the Church is missionary. Everything we do as leaders and parishes needs to be aligned to the Church's mission of making disciples. We need to look at everything we are doing as leaders through the lens of this question: "Does it make disciples or not?" Put another way, "Are we bringing people meet Christ in His Church, maturing them as disciples of Jesus, and equipping them for mission to a lost and broken world?" Does our leadership bear the fruit of missionary disciples?

***New Office Focus***

So the office has, not only a new name, but also a new focus: to equip leaders for mission and to plan, in the parishes as well as the greater archdiocese, for the growth of the mission of Christ and His Church. So while many of the functions of the previous office will remain, they will be executed through a missionary lens. How does our leadership and planning "Proclaim Christ and Make Disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church?"

***Office Services***

The Office of Missionary Planning and Leadership serves parishes in the following ways:

- Provide vision and training for centering a parish on mission
- Provide training to equip leaders for missionary leadership
- Provide coaching on organizational best practices and team-building
- Provide strategic missionary planning for parishes
- Walk parishes through the Building Committee proxy process
- Provide parishes with Mission Insite "Big Data" reports
- Walk with leaders through mergers, multi-parish configurations, and transitions

- Provide norms for parishes on Pastoral Councils, Finance Councils, and Parish Committees

The Office of Missionary Planning and Leadership serves the archdiocese in the following ways:

- Articulate and implement a parish and school plan for Post-2020
- Coordinate the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

***In Next Month's Issue***

Stay tuned for next month's issue where I will share more about how we are approaching the formulation of a Post-2020 Plan for archdiocesan parishes and schools.

***Contact Information-Office of Missionary Planning and Leadership***

For questions or to request services, please contact:

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