

How Do We Make the Mission Happen?

Simply put, we do what Jesus did. The parish fulfills Jesus' mission by establishing a clear process for forming missionary disciples to reach, call, form, and send other missionary disciples.

Missionary disciples accompany others through faith development stages from seeker, to believer, to disciple, to missionary disciple.

Like Jesus, parish leaders build authentic loving relationships with a small number of individuals, and apprentice them through a clear process that forms and sends them to do the same for others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The John Paul II Center helps parishes establish one such process through Catholic ID.

The Church Proclaims Her Missionary Identity

"The Church is missionary by her very nature, for Christ's mandate is not something contingent or external, but reaches the very heart of the Church." (John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, #62)

"...missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church's activity." (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, # 15)

"In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples." (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 120)



JOHN PAUL II Center
for the New Evangelization

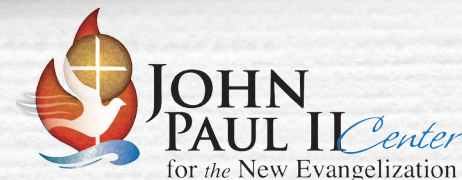
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Mission: THE ONE THING

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through his saving death and resurrection by calling, forming and sending disciples to **go** and **make** new **disciples**. As a people, we are called to encounter Jesus and grow as disciples through the sacramental life of the Church.



Jesus is the Mission of the Father

From the very beginning of creation, the Holy Trinity reached out in love to form us for a relationship with our God and each other.

When our sin broke the relationship, the Father again reached out in love by sending Jesus on a mission to die for our sins and raise us to new life and restored relationship.

Jesus wants the whole world to experience this new life and relationship. To achieve his plan to reach all people, he spent most of his 3 year ministry forming 12 unqualified people. Then, after he rose, he filled them with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and sent them to call, form, and send others. This is how the Church was born.

Jesus' Mission Has a Church

Jesus gave the Church her missionary identity when he sent the 12 disciples to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

In the act of this Great Commission, Jesus forms a Church "on-the-move," defined and sent with the clear mission to be disciples who make new disciples.

In other words, the Church is the mission of Jesus... reaching, calling, and forming missionary disciples to go make new missionary disciples.

None of us would be Catholic if it wasn't for someone who was formed by someone who was formed by... someone formed by one of the twelve.

Reach All People

Catholic Parishes send missionaries to build authentic relationships of support and compassion in their community, work places, families, and among the least. Some of those reached will emerge as seekers. Seekers may acknowledge that they are searching for something more, including deeper meaning, purpose, community, relationship with God, truth, the reason for our hope, etc.

Call Seekers

Catholic missionaries invite seekers to ask questions, explore the good news of Jesus and his Church, and encounter Christ through one-on-one conversations, seeker small groups, and seeker-friendly events. Some seekers will chose to become believers, deciding to follow Jesus and his Church.

Form Believers

Catholic missionaries invite believers to grow in the heart and habits of discipleship through one-on-one mentoring and discipleship small groups. As believers grow in understanding of God's love for them and establish regular habits of prayer, scripture, sacraments, parish community, and service to the least, they become disciples who desire to respond to Jesus' call to mission.

Parishes who are just getting started are encouraged to start here, identifying a small group of faithful, available, teachable leaders and forming them for missionary discipleship to help others around the mission wheel. Catholic ID is one process parishes use to get started.

Send Missionary Disciples

Catholic missionaries invite disciples to learn how to accompany others around the mission wheel. Disciples discern how God has called and gifted them to serve Jesus and his Church by reaching out to others and walking with them through the thresholds of seeker, believer, disciple, and missionary.

