



## **Formation Key Issues and Key Questions**

### **Cultural Realities**

- For many Catholics, “Catholic Identity” has become a tradition or hoop rather than an interior disposition of discipleship
- Our formation efforts are weakened by families who rarely pray or attend Mass
- We lack trained catechetical leaders and the financial resources to pay them justly
- The chief and central task of adult formation is not a top priority in many parishes

**Reflection Question:** In light of these cultural realities, how do we identify talented catechetical leaders, train them in professional skills, and generate the necessary funds to pay them justly?

### **Theological Foundations**

- Jesus and the early Church invited followers and formed them into intentional disciples within the context of community
- Forming intentional disciples is a spiritual process that unfolds across the life-cycle
- Formation affirms Gospel values in the culture and purifies values that are contrary
- Formed disciples generously share their time, talent, and treasure in Church, community, and society. They become fruitful agents of transformation in society

**Reflection Question:** How can we foster formation for discipleship that is rooted in the Church, spans the life-cycle, speaks to the culture, and bears the fruits of evangelization and holiness?

### **Other Issues and Challenges**

- Formation for discipleship is an apprenticeship in the Catholic Christian way of life
- Formation for discipleship is the ongoing responsibility of the whole parish
- We need a renewed vision of parishes as centers of formation for discipleship
- A renewed vision forms intentional disciples in all six dimensions of catechesis (knowledge of the faith, liturgical life, moral formation, prayer, belonging to community, missionary spirit)

**Reflection Question:** How do we help parishes fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus and become centers of formation for discipleship through apprenticeship and full catechesis?

### **Small Group Task: Key Initiatives, Quick Hits, Innovative Ideas**

In light of the key issues and questions articulated above, identify how to strengthen the mission of the Church in the area of **Formation for Discipleship** through:

- **2-3 Key Initiatives**
- **1-2 Quick Hits**
- **2-3 Innovative Ideas**