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DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER

LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU CALLED ME TO FOLLOW YOU AS YOUR DISCIPLE. Help me to drop my nets and follow you.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU GIVE ME EVERYTHING I NEED TO CARRY OUT YOUR WILL. Draw me closer to you.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU SEND ME TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS. Teach me to be faithful in my words and actions.
Jesus was intentional about discipleship. For three years he invested himself in the lives of twelve men who would eventually take up the work he had begun. He gave them a call (follow me), a command (love as I have loved), and a commission (make disciples).

During the summer, Most Precious Blood held two Saturday sessions, “Come Follow Me”: Exploring Jesus’ Invitation to Discipleship. The days began with Morning Prayer in the Chapel followed by presentations and small group discussion.

“I was impressed with how many parishioners would take time away from a Saturday in the summer to devote to growing in their faith,” as characterized by parishioner John Fecko.

The two sessions reflected on the book, Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell. She notes, “Simon Peter’s ‘drop the net’ decision is what we mean by ‘intentional.’ From the moment he dropped his nets to follow Jesus, he was a disciple.” (pg. 65)

Deacon Dave Camous testified, “I definitely had a major ‘ah ha’ moment during the first workshop. I realized that all the things that I have ever put in my life ahead of the practice of my faith were all attempts at establishing relationships. When I was in my early 20s I became deeply involved in a theater company in San Francisco. Yet, my attachment to that enterprise went well beyond my love of theater productions. It was primarily driven by my desire to connect with the people involved. The same has been true whether at work in my many jobs over my career or even in my volunteer activities, such as my coaching high school speech and debate. In each case I was trying to fill gaps in the premier relationship I needed to be working on in my life, my relationship with Jesus Christ. When I have given that primary relationship the attention it deserves, then my other relationships with my wife, family, and friends all grew healthier and stronger as a result.”

When asked about his takeaway from the session, parishioner Jim Riley articulated, “My personal relationship with Jesus must be of paramount importance. It is the center and source of who I am. In today’s society and even in ministry within the church, it is easy to forget this. We become busy and distracted and forget this center and ground of our faith. We can often just run on automatic pilot. We become Christ’s ‘employees’ in our ministries and not his sons and daughters.”

The vision of discipleship, as stated by Director of Discipleship, John Molloy is, “We are fostering a culture of intentional discipleship. Each person is explicitly called to encounter the Person of Jesus Christ, invited to give his or her life to Him, encouraged to grow in a deeper relationship with Him, and equipped to fulfill his or her mission in the world. This focus can be broken down into three parts: making disciples, forming disciples, and commissioning apostles.”

A disciple is someone who has heard the proclamation of basic Gospel message (called the kerygma), and made an initial, but explicit, response of faith in Jesus Christ and has begun to change their life as a result. The modern person goes through five stages or thresholds thatculminate in this decision. In order to move closer to the Lord, one
must hear the Good News multiple times: “Jesus Christ loves you; He gave His life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you.” (164, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis)

**Forming Disciples**

Once a decision has been made, the new disciple must mature in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ. Growth occurs through practicing the marks of a disciple: daily prayer and Scripture, living sacramental life, knowledge and adherence to the Church’s teachings, stewardship, service, and evangelism. At Most Precious Blood, there are numerous opportunities to grow in these habits, but the most fruit is produced when participation in them is practiced in a discipling community and preceded by the decision to follow Jesus daily.

**Commissioning Apostles**

An apostle is a mature disciple who has discerned his or her charisms (special God-given gifts infused at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation) and determined where God has called him or her to fruitfully exercise them to build up His Kingdom on earth. When the mature disciple discerns his or her charisms and exercises them, others encounter the living God through him or her. This brings a sense true fulfillment, because he or she is carrying out the mission for which he or she was created.

John Fecko describes a disciple as, “Someone that makes a decision to actively follow Jesus, despite not knowing completely where that will lead. Like Mary at the Annunciation, you tell God, I am your servant. I will do what you ask.” He goes on to describe opportunities he has had to grow in discipleship, “Christ Renews His Parish Retreat, Adoration, small men’s groups. Anything where I am spending time with the Lord or discussing my journey with other’s on the journey.”

In Weddell’s book, she surmises, “If we do not see the parish as a center of evangelization and apostolic formation, we are denying priests and their pastoral collaborators one of the great, abiding joys of ministry and one of the most powerful protections against cynicism and burnout.” (pg. 95)

“In recent decades, there has been little or no serious discussion at the parish level about how an individual receiving the sacraments can prepare his or her heart, soul, and life to do so fruitfully.” (pg. 98)

“While we cannot make anyone ‘drop their nets’ any more than a gardener can make a seed germinate, we can intentionally and intelligently work to create an environment that is conducive to the growth of personal faith and experiences, structures, and spiritual culture of our parish life so that it fosters the journey that Jesus Christ asks all of us to make: following him.” (pg. 185)

Jim Riley’s response to Weddell’s claim, “The cycle of silence has to be broken. This isn’t easy. We have been brought up in a culture where we aren’t comfortable sharing our faith with others. We, as individuals, must be more willing to openly share our faith. To help this happen, there are several things that our church can do:

A. Create faith sharing/supporting small groups. Not courses, per se, but groups where we can freely discuss our faith and find and give support to others. This will give us practice in openly discussing our faith, help break down our existing barriers, and make us better able to speak with others outside of our safe groups. This would be in addition to our regular adult studies.

B. Schedule more opportunities where parishioners can share their personal faith stories. Witnessing is powerful.

C. We have the wonderful “Christ Renews His Parish” retreat but, keeping the thresholds in mind, we know that many are not prepared to take this leap of faith out of their comfort zone. We should provide a pre-CHRIP program that will help build the trust, curiosity, and openness that is necessary to commit to the possible life changing CRHP retreat. A multi-night meeting format (2-3?) can ease people into making the commitment.

D. Create a ‘Welcome Home’ ministry where those who have already made the journey back to the church can aid others on their journey. A divorce ministry would also be very helpful.”

As for John Fecko, his personal advice is, “Be a solid example of the gospel life in the world. Do works of mercy. Forgive. Be joyous. Show your love of Jesus more through your actions than your words.”
Arriving at Most Precious Blood during Holy Week, Deacon Dave Camous didn’t hesitate to jump right in to help during the busiest week of the Church year. Starting his new job at MPB the following week, he came to us from Colorado to be our new Director of Operations. In 2002, his love for the Lord led him to be ordained a Deacon.

So, how does Deacon Dave describe intentional discipleship? “I would describe intentional discipleship as making a conscious commitment to follow Jesus every day in every aspect of your life no matter where He may lead.”

When asked to reflect on his own faith journey and what opportunities helped him encounter Jesus in his church, Deacon Dave recounts, “My most profound experience was the one I recounted in a recent homily. When I was in my mid-20s I had been ‘looking for love in all the wrong places.’ Not finding any fulfillment in life, late one night I desperately sought a church in which to pray. When I was able to force open a door that was not properly closed I prostrated myself in tears in front of the tabernacle and surrendered myself back to God. I felt His caring embrace as if the loving Father had welcomed home the prodigal son. This clear invitation to renew the relationship gave me such relief and joy that I happily rejoined Jesus on the journey. There were so many times that I have stumbled away, but each time I realized that God was still near, and like the troublesome little child that I am, would always find my way back to my Father’s arms.

A primary opportunity for me to encounter Jesus was the four times I was given in diaconal formation to answer the same question, ‘Who do you say that I am?’ By having to dig deeper on this question in four consecutive years I felt that I was led to a more intimate relationship with my Lord and Savior and how I continue to encounter him in His church. Another great experience was when I was asked to facilitate Spiritual Gifts workshops in my previous parish. Helping people understand their God given gifts and how Jesus was calling them to use them to serve His church was powerful. A final very important way in which I’ve encountered Jesus was through the many contemplative retreats I took at the Pecos Benedictine Monastery. In our noisy and demanding world we rarely, if ever, take the time to truly rest and be fully present to God. When I would take those few days once or twice a year in the mountains of northern New Mexico, I was truly able to be still and know that He is my God.

When I was progressing through diaconal formation and was confronted with the yearly exercise of answering the question, ‘who do you say that I am?’ I was led on that path from head to heart where I clearly heard Jesus’ call to set aside my analysis of who He was, to stop trying to define Him, and simply allow myself to get to know Him as my brother and friend.

I have heard the call to a personal relationship with Jesus so many times in the words of the songs we sing at Church. I hear the words as if they are personal invitations to me, ‘Come back to me, with all your heart,’ (Hosea), ‘Whom shall I send?’(Here I Am Lord), and just about every word in The Servant Song.”

Deacon Dave Camous
Over the last 3 months, the Hispanic Ministry celebrated the traditional Divino Niño Mass on July 20th with the novena, which was well attended with about 200 people. Non-perishable food was collected and donated to HOPE Helps for the families in need in our Oviedo community. Our new Parochial Vicar, Father Vilaire presided at Mass.

Marina Martinez, Coordinator of Divino Niño, explains, “The devotion to the Divino Niño in Bogota, Colombia began with Fr. John Rizzo, a Salesian priest from the region near Arenzano, Italy, who already had a great devotion to the Infant Jesus. Full of anguish he went to pray before the statue of Mary, Help of Christians. Then with all his soul, he pleaded that the Holy Child give him the courage to beg for the works of God. His prayers were answered. Raising his eyes, he saw the little Child Jesus, smiling with His arms outstretched as if to say ‘Take me with you. I want to accompany you.’ From that time, he became a great apostle of the Holy Child. He spoke of Him, he worked for Him, and he dedicated his life and all his energy to promote devotion to the Infancy of Our Lord. He preached to the people about the favors that the Christ Child does for those who have faith and who help the poor.

We continue with the tradition, not only Colombians, but all Hispanics. On July 20th the day of the Divino Niño, Hispanics have a Mass and people bring to the Mass canned goods for the poor. Usually at the end of the Mass we have Pan de Bono (bread), cheese, and chocolate and talk about the favors that the Divino Niño has granted us.”
The purpose of the Most Precious Women Ministry is to engage all the women of our parish, to develop their faith as Catholic Christians, and to provide activities that promote spiritual growth, social interaction and selfless stewardship.

After a quiet and warm summer, we plan to kick off our year with our THIRD ANNUAL PIE SOCIAL on September 15, 2016 at 7pm in the Saint John Bosco Youth Room. All women of the parish are welcome to come and join us for a piece of pie and meet women of the parish as we plan another prayerful and enjoyable year.

Once a month our Most Precious Women Ministry hosts a game night of Bunco. It is an entertaining night of friendship and laughter as we share some food and fun. We collect canned goods for the Hope Helps Food Pantry. Sign up for our evite and come join us for a night of fun.

SAVE THE DATE: ANGELS AMONG US, FRIDAY OCTOBER 28, 2016, 7pm.

Angels Among Us is a fun and touching performance by physically challenged and special needs individuals along with their professional instructors entertaining you with song, dance, and comedy! The Angels troupe, originally formed by Fr. Tom Smith, Catholic priest and longtime stage performer, and Elsie Doughty, dancer, choreographer, and producer, has entertained audiences since 2005. The Angels will make you feel good about life as you're drawn in by their unique exuberant, humorous, and joyous delivery. They will capture your heart! Our own Father David will join the cast with piano, jokes, or maybe even some dog tricks. Father Vilaire has also offered to share his talents. Mark your calendars now for an evening of entertainment.

ADVENT CANDLES AND WREATHS: Once again Most Precious Women Ministry will be selling Advent candles and wreaths to prepare for the holy season of Advent. Watch for our tables in November and December to take advantage of this opportunity to bring the Christ Child close to your family during this holy season.


This is an inspirational true story of one woman who discovers an extraordinary secret to living a life filled with miracles, unconditional love and answered prayers.

Jacqueline van Zwehl, holds a BFA in Film/TV Studies from New York University and a MBA in Marketing from Pennsylvania State University. She has been writing for over twenty years, is a motivational speaker, and certified life coach. Jacqueline lives in South Florida with her husband Christopher, their two daughters, and dog. The Prayer is her debut book.
SUMMER MINISTRY

Youth Mission Trip to Charleston

Fr. Dominic Buckley Farewell Aloha Luau

Oviedo churches join for healing of Orlando tragedy

Discipleship Morning of Reflection

Vacation Bible School
Father Vilaire Philius

Steubenville Youth Conference

New Seminarian Matthew Rios