

DISCIPLES ON THE WAY - FOLLOW JESUS

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DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION: DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY



Discover Jesus

Follow Jesus

Worship Jesus

Share Jesus

OVERVIEW

- We follow Jesus by answering the call to Prayer and Holiness.
- We follow Jesus as His disciples by imitating Him daily.
- We follow Jesus by building habits of effective discipleship.
- We follow Jesus by fostering a culture of missionary discipleship.

FOLLOW JESUS: THE WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. - MARK 1:16-18

When God comes, he always calls us out of our house. We are visited so that we can visit others; we are encountered so as to encounter others; we receive love in order to give love. - POPE FRANCIS

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I. WE FOLLOW JESUS BY ANSWERING THE CALL TO HOLINESS

The Call to Prayer & Holiness

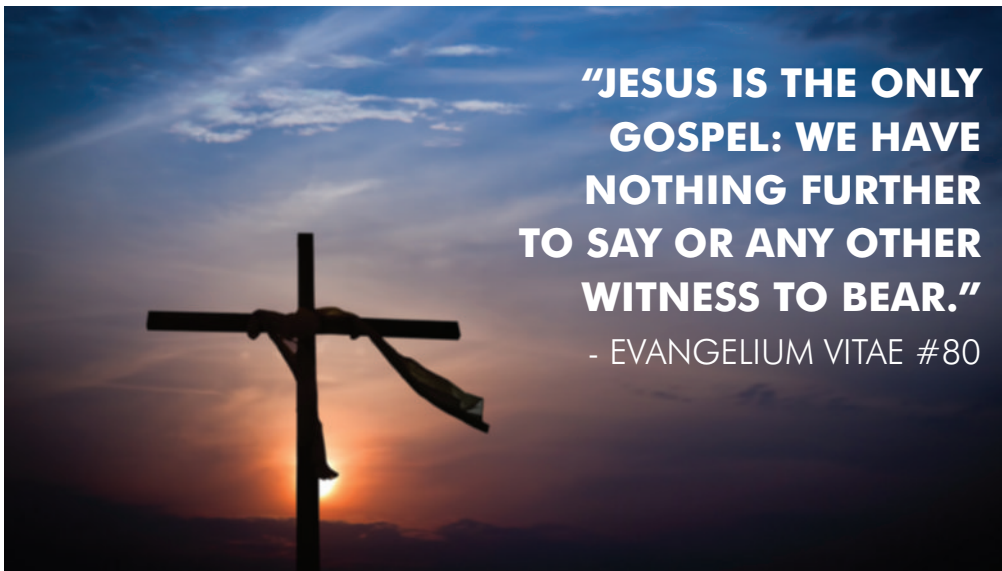
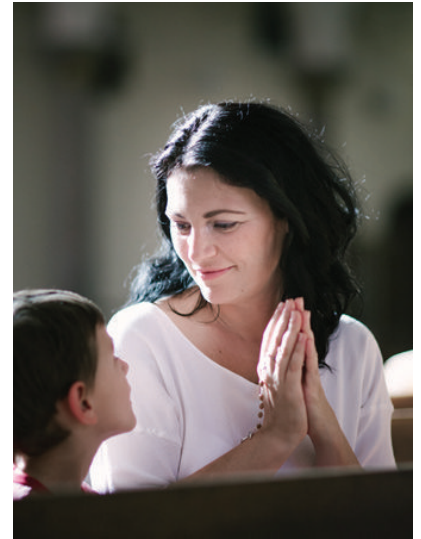
"Making Christ a priority in our lives means that we have to say "yes" to what Christ is asking of us and say "no" to the things of the world that pull us away from him." - Bishop Ricken, *Teach My People To Pray*

Making Space for Christ

We need to make space for Christ in our minds and in our hearts which are often too cluttered. We need to make space for the gift which is Jesus Christ himself for "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb 13:8). - Pastoral Letter *"Parishes: Called to Be Holy, Fully Engaged, Fully Alive"* and Pastoral Reflection *"Teach My People to Pray"*

What does the prayer life of a disciple look like?

"It is clear that it is not just the recitation of prayers at Sunday Mass that signifies a person who has a quality prayer life, although this is certainly an important part of a disciple's prayer life. Rather, a disciple of Jesus is someone who is a good friend of Jesus and spends some time alone with the Lord in prayer every day. Each of us is called to walk with Jesus, and strive to grow closer to Him in thought, word and deed." - Pastoral Reflection *"Teach My People to Pray"*



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II. WE FOLLOW JESUS AS HIS DISCIPLES BY IMITATING HIM DAILY

What is a disciple?

The word disciple comes from the Greek word *mathetes* meaning pupil/student of the master. It is an apprenticeship in faith.

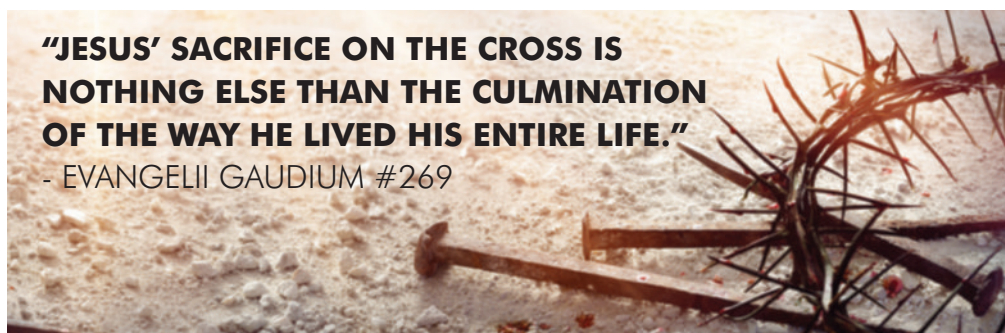
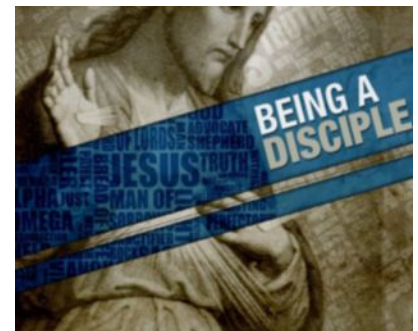
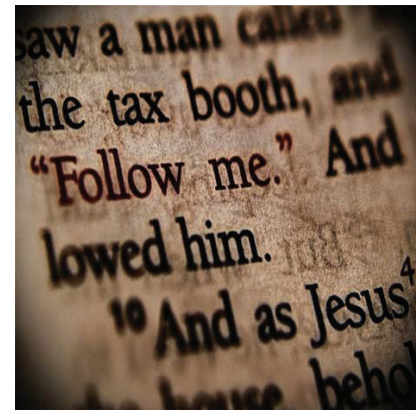
- A disciple is one who follows Jesus, loves Him, wants to learn from Him, be with Him and share Him with others.
- A disciple is one who is baptized, confirmed and who practices the faith joyfully. Disciples are friends and followers of Jesus.
- A disciple is a baptized member of the Church who wants to keep growing and deepening his/her walk with Jesus and His Body, the Church.

What does it mean to be a disciple?

"Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey." - POPE FRANCIS, EVANGELII GAUDIUM , #127

How do we imitate Jesus?

- If he speaks to someone, he looks into their eyes with deep love and concern.
- "Jesus, looking upon him, loved him." - Mark 10:21
- We see how accessible he is, as he draws near the blind man (cf. Mk 10:46-52) and eats and drinks with sinners (cf. Mk 2:16) without worrying about being thought a glutton and a drunkard himself (cf. Mt 11:19).
- We see his sensitivity in allowing a sinful woman to anoint his feet (cf. Lk 7:36-50) and in receiving Nicodemus by night (cf. Jn 3:1-15).



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III. WE FOLLOW JESUS BY BUILDING HABITS (VIRTUES) OF DISCIPLESHIP

10 Habits of effective discipleship

1. A Personal Relationship – A disciple cultivates a personal relationship with Jesus, articulates it and introduces others to Jesus.
2. Prayer – A disciple prays every day.
3. Commitment – A disciple has a commitment to Jesus, his Church and to the Kingdom.
4. Worship – A disciple worships every Sunday.
5. Study – A disciple studies Sacred Scripture and other Christian writings.
6. Openness – A disciple practices openness to the Holy Spirit and responsiveness to where the Lord is leading him or her.
7. Participation – A disciple participates in the community and in the Sacramental life of the Church.
8. Service – A disciple serves others in the community in the name of Jesus Christ.
9. Generosity – A disciple shares his or her personal gifts of time, talent and treasure with the Lord, His Church, and the poor.
10. Evangelization – A disciple evangelizes the world through word, witness, works of mercy, and compassion.



Follow Jesus - Reflection Questions

- In what ways am I following Jesus in my life?

- How does Jesus call me to follow Him in my ministry?

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IV. WE FOLLOW JESUS BY FOSTERING A CULTURE OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

Moving forward as one Body in Christ

- Present State 2016: Diocese of Green Bay
- Our goal is to facilitate all individuals, groups, parishes, schools, apostolates, programs and ministries to head in the same direction with a clear focus and the development of goals and strategies for implementation.

Vision and Mission

Vision: We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God.

Mission: As friends and followers of Jesus, we are devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church.

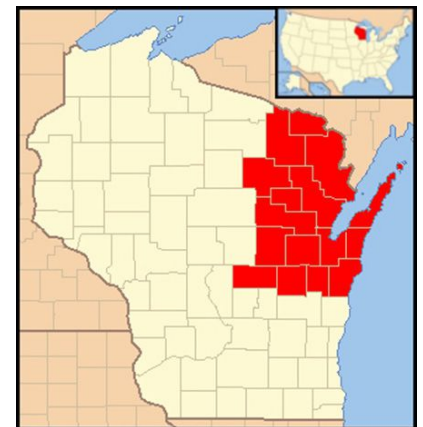
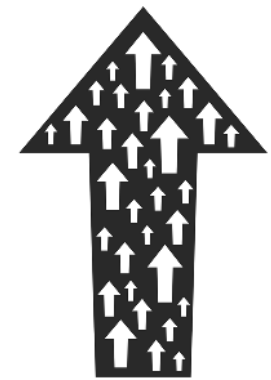
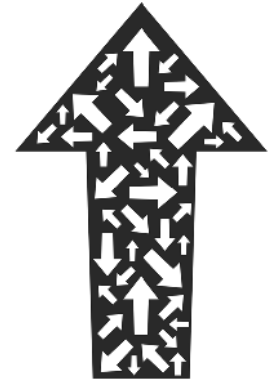
Communities of Discipleship: Discover Jesus. Follow Jesus. Worship Jesus. Share Jesus with others.

Fostering a culture of missionary discipleship in the Diocese of Green Bay

Who is Jesus, and why is he important to us today?

"I can see from my own experience that even if I speak of many beautiful concepts, nothing seems to happen. We must proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior, helping people to grasp what it means to have Jesus as their Savior — not in a theoretical way, but that every day they have a Savior, someone who will lift them from their fatigue of the day, of their sin, and their mistakes, and who renews them. He saves us. When you proclaim this living, crucified and risen Jesus, something always happens."

- Fr. Raniero Cantalmessa, OFM Cap



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Our Culture

"We are strong witnesses to Christ when we band together as missionary disciples to utilize our God-given gifts and talents. We address our own inconsistencies as we act to do the right thing. There is power in our transparency to own our weaknesses and to trust in God and each other in our vulnerability."

- Diocese of Green Bay, Culture Statement

Our Values

1. Connect to Inspire
2. Embrace People's Hearts
3. Explore Potential
4. Empowered to Act
5. Nurture Abundant Life and Growth

Connect to Inspire

- We are able to accomplish more together than we can on our own. The connection we have with God and others creates growth and excitement.
- Scripture: *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* – Hebrews 10:24-25

Embrace People's Hearts

- Each person is created in the image and likeness of God and is deserving of respect and honor. All of our interactions communicate the positive regard and appreciation we have for each and every person.
- Scripture: *"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."* - Romans 12:10

Explore Potential

- We all have God-given potential. We work together to see the possibilities and the gifts each of us has been given in order to accomplish the vision and mission of the Church to evangelize and impact communities.
- Scripture: *"I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me."* - Philippians 4:13

Empowered to Act

- All baptized Christians are empowered to act according to the gifts given to them by the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. By living out the diocesan vision and mission of missionary discipleship, we are empowered to take responsibility to act.
- Scripture: *"We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry."* - 2 Corinthians 6:3

Nurture Abundant Life and Growth

- Life is a gift and we are charged by the Creator to protect it and to foster its growth wherever possible. We actively pursue life over death, potential over limitation, and light over darkness.
- Scripture: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* - John 1:5

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Reflection Questions

As you consider the values, which one do you feel you exemplify. Why?

As you consider your ministry, how do the values align with your work?

Which values are the most challenging for you? Why?

Time for a new pentecost

"What a new Pentecost means, is that we are asking for the Holy Spirit to manifest Himself more and more so that we become truly alive in our faith. We want to shine as a light in the midst of darkness, and truly to be salt for the world by the quality of our witness and the sacrifices we make for the sake of Jesus, for the Gospel and for the Church." - Disciples on the Way



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A DISCIPLE'S PRAYER

"Oh, Good Shepherd, Jesus,"
Help me to imitate You
And reflect Your image to others,
Especially those whom I guide and serve.

Help me to think with your mind,
To see and gaze with your eyes,
To hear with your ears,
To speak with the words of your mouth.

Lord Jesus, use me to carry forth your mission,
As your servant and disciple,
Help me to carry out this work with your hands,
To be a voice for You in all that I say and do.

Merciful Shepherd, Jesus,
Help me to live in your Person,
To share generously in the carrying of your cross,
So that many others may be saved.
By coming to know and love You
Through my simple, faithful witness.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

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