“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, Evangeli Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) #127

**A REFLECTION ON MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP**

**What does it mean to be a disciple?**
Before one can evangelize, one must be evangelized. Before one can disciple others, one must be a disciple.

The new evangelization begins with each one of us as a disciple. The identity of a disciple springs from Jesus Christ, through faith and Baptism, and grows in the Church, the community where all its members acquire equal dignity and participate in various ministries and charisms.

**What is the difference between a disciple and a missionary disciple?**
The word disciple comes from the Greek word mathetes meaning pupil/student of the master. It is an apprenticeship in faith to the master, Jesus Christ.

A disciple is a friend and follower of Jesus who follows Jesus, worships Jesus, and shares Jesus with others.

**A disciple is someone who:**
- Discovers Jesus
- Follows Jesus
- Worships Jesus
- Shares Jesus

A missionary disciple is one who emphasizes the importance of following and sharing Jesus with others and inspires, equips and forms others to be disciples and disciple makers.

**A missionary disciple is someone who:**
- Introduces others to Jesus
- Accompanies others on their Way
- Invites and accompanies others to Sunday Worship and the Sacraments
- Inspires, forms, equips and sends others on mission to share Jesus and make disciples
## TEN HABITS OF DISCIPLESHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISCIPLES</th>
<th>MISSIONARY DISCIPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relationship</strong></td>
<td>Has a personal relationship with Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prayer</strong></td>
<td>Prays every day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commitment</strong></td>
<td>To Jesus, His Church and to the Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>At least once a week in the most Holy Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study</strong></td>
<td>Sacred Scripture and other Christian writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open</strong></td>
<td>Open and responsive to where the Holy Spirit and Jesus are calling me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participates</strong></td>
<td>In the community and the Sacramental life of the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serves</strong></td>
<td>Others in the name of Jesus Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shares</strong></td>
<td>My personal gifts, time, and treasure with the Lord, His Church, and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evangelizes</strong></td>
<td>The world through word, witness, works of mercy, and compassion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“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
FOR REFLECTION:
“Jesus is the only Gospel: we have nothing further to say or any other witness to bear.”
- John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae #80

“There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed.”
- Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi #22

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
• Where am I in my journey as a “Disciple on the Way”?
• What practices do I need to spend time praying about in order to deepen my faith?
• Who am I journeying with as a fellow “Disciple on the Way”?
• Who is supporting my journey as a “Disciple on the Way”?

PARISH REFLECTION QUESTIONS:
• As we consider our parish, what can we do to make the mission of our parish in making disciples more explicit?
• Who are the most readily available, on fire and enthusiastic disciples that could help to move other “Disciples on the Way”?
• What existing initiatives or ministries are most important to growing our discipleship efforts?
• Which ministries need to be relooked at from the perspective of discipleship?
• What do we need to STOP doing to grow disciples?
• What do we need to KEEP doing (but perhaps improve) to grow disciples?
• What do we need to START doing to grow disciples?
• How will we know if we are successful in making disciples?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION