

# PARISH LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

## DISCIPLES ON THE WAY

DISCOVER  
JESUS

FOLLOW  
JESUS

WORSHIP  
JESUS

SHARE  
JESUS

### WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

We, the Diocese of Green Bay are “Disciples on the Way.”

In 2014, the Diocese of Green Bay launched a process into the new evangelization called Disciples on the Way. The goal of Disciples on the Way is the renewal of each person and in turn, our parishes through discovering Jesus, following Jesus, worshipping Jesus and sharing Jesus.

Bishop Ricken remarks that this is a journey of “prayer, preaching, teaching and growing in faith, that will help us not necessarily to do more, but to be more; to be more like Jesus in all aspects of our lives, work and ministries. This is our journey into the New Evangelization.”

Therefore, we, the Diocese of Green Bay, are Disciples on the Way. Every one of us – bishop, priest, deacon, parish staff, parishioner, etc. – by virtue of our Baptism, is a part of this journey.

To prepare the groundwork for discipleship by permeating the entire process with prayer, Bishop Ricken issued a pastoral reflection entitled, “Teach My People to Pray,” in August 2014.

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*“Pope Francis is urging all of us to reach out; to be deeply rooted in prayer by developing an intimate friendship with Jesus Christ. He asks us to share the fruits of the spiritual intimacy we have with Jesus with everyone in our lives, so others see the joy of Christ shining forth in us. Joy comes from living a life fully rooted in Christ so that ‘it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me, the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me’ (Galatians 2:20).”*

- Bishop David L. Ricken, *Disciples on the Way*



Diocese of  
Green Bay

# DISCIPLES ON THE WAY | PARISH LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

## A NEW MISSION AND VISION

It became clear as we journeyed through this process, that a new vision and mission be articulated for the Diocese to respond to the emphasis on missionary discipleship in the universal church. The new mission and vision were announced in August 2016.

### 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.
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## WHERE WE ARE TODAY - DISCOVER JESUS, FOLLOW JESUS

With the launch of our new vision and mission, we are focused at this time on helping our leaders to discover Jesus and follow Jesus as a missionary disciple. To facilitate this process, all leaders and key volunteers of the Diocese of Green Bay will participate in a Discipleship Formation Seminar focused on missionary discipleship. After completing this seminar, leaders will participate in a small faith sharing experience called Alpha.

### WHAT IS THE DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION SEMINAR?

The Discipleship Formation Seminar is designed to help us understand the opportunities and challenges in forming disciples of Jesus Christ and the connection between evangelization, catechesis, education, parish life and mission within the discipleship process. The Discipleship Formation Seminar is focused on discovering and following Jesus and is further deepened through the “Alpha” small faith sharing experience.

### WHAT IS ALPHA?

Alpha is series of interactive sessions designed to present the Gospel and the essentials of Christian faith in a dynamic way that reaches the hearts of men and women today. Each session includes a meal, a video talk, and small group discussion. Alpha is intended to build upon the Discipleship Formation Seminar by helping people grow in their own journey as disciples.

# DISCIPLES ON THE WAY | PARISH LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

## WHERE WE ARE GOING - WORSHIP JESUS, SHARE JESUS

“Disciples on the Way” is a process is not a program so that each one of us and our parishes can be renewed and strengthened. Part of this process, is recognizing the need to make adjustments, so at the request of the priests and pastoral leaders of the Diocese, we are extending the timeline of “Disciples on the Way.”

The timeline of the journey is extended to 2024 (see below) so that we may spend time growing in discipleship, improving the quality of our worship and forming our leaders and parishioners to bring the Good News to others.

This does not mean that all of us should not be doing this work now or that we should wait until this process is complete. However, we must be intentional in our efforts to ensure that a critical mass of missionary disciples is formed and sent out to be impactful for the Gospel and the Church in Northeast Wisconsin.

Please consider this an invitation from Bishop Ricken, to be a part of this journey.

Disciples on the Way Timeline:		
Discipleship Formation	Discover Jesus	2016-2018
Discipleship Formation	Follow Jesus	2018-2020
Community Formation	Worship Jesus	2020-2022
Missionary Formation	Share Jesus	2022-2024

*“Mission is never the fruit of a perfectly planned program or a well-organized manual. Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what it is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven. Mission is born of a constant experience of God’s merciful anointing.” - Pope Francis*

*“The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with Him in the building of the civilization of love.” - St. John Paul II*

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## SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS

If you have questions, comments, or ideas, please share them with us at [disciplesontheway@gbdioc.org](mailto:disciplesontheway@gbdioc.org).



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# DISCIPLES ON THE WAY | PARISH LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

## 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

## A DISCIPLE'S PRAYER

*by Bishop David L. Ricken*

“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.



Diocese of  
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# DISCIPLES ON THE WAY | PARISH LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

TEN HABITS OF DISCIPLESHIP		
	DISCIPLES	MISSIONARY DISCIPLES
Relationship	Has a personal relationship with Jesus	Introduces others to their best friend Jesus
Prayer	Prays every day	Helps others to pray
Commitment	To Jesus, His Church and to the Kingdom	Guides others to make a commitment to Jesus, His Church and to the Kingdom
Worship	At least once a week in the most Holy Eucharist	Welcomes and invites others to Mass and to the Sacraments
Study	Sacred Scripture and other Christian writings	Shares their love of Sacred Scripture and other Christian writings with others
Open	Open and responsive to where the Holy Spirit and Jesus are calling me	Helps others to be open to the Holy Spirit and where they are being called
Participates	In the community and the Sacramental life of the Church	Walks with others intentionally in faith and helps them to discern where the Lord is calling them to participate
Serves	Others in the name of Jesus Christ	Guides others to serve in the name of Jesus Christ
Shares	My personal gifts, time, and treasure with the Lord, His Church, and others	Helps others in word and deed to be generous stewards of the gifts given to us
Evangelizes	The world through word, witness, works of mercy, and compassion	Provides support and formation for others in how to share the Good News

*“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*



Diocese of  
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# DISCIPLES ON THE WAY | PARISH LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

## 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

*“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

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## 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”?
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## 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?



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