

## Evangelization & Catechesis

**Vision:** Given that the primary mission of the Church is to evangelize, the vision of the Archdiocese of Detroit will be to:

- Engage all Catholics within the Archdiocese of Detroit in Evangelization – their primary mission, flowing from their baptismal call.
- Understand that evangelization and catechesis are inseparable.
- Build strong catechetical programs that support the work of evangelization at all levels and stages, thus sharing Christ in and through the Church.

### **Definition of Evangelization & Catechesis:**

To evangelize is to bear witness, in a simple and direct way, to God revealed by Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Evangelization, then, has different implications depending on our relationship to Jesus and His Church. For those who practice and live the Catholic faith, it is a call to ongoing growth and renewed conversion. For those who have accepted the faith in name, it is a call to re-evangelization. For those who have stopped practicing their faith, it is a call to reconciliation. For children, it is a call to be formed into disciples, through the family's faith life and religious formation. For other Christians, it is an invitation to know the fullness of the Church's message. For those who have no faith, it is a call to know Christ Jesus and thus experience a conversion to new life with Jesus and His Church (Go and Make Disciples, 26, 27). Personal conversion is the essential element for being an effective disciple.

The fundamental task of catechesis is to achieve this objective: the formation of disciples of Jesus. The ministry of catechesis, as an essential moment in the Church's mission of evangelization, is a fundamental ecclesial service for the realization of the missionary mandate of Jesus (National Directory for Catechesis, 53, 59, 63).

**Goal 1:** To re-engage, renew, and re-invigorate in all Catholics our baptismal call to enthusiastically share Jesus in and through the New Evangelization.

- By enthusiastically living and sharing our faith with others requires conversion, an openness, and deep understanding of the Holy Spirit's actions in one's life and in God's Word by a united collaboration between clergy and laity.

**Goal 2:** To actively seek to restore unity throughout the Archdiocese by advancing Jesus' message of salvation through evangelizing those within as well as outside of the Catholic faith.

- By Christian unity fostered through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including outreach and reconciliation with inactive Catholics, inclusion of all irrespective of social or cultural differences, and ecumenical dialogue, along with inter-faith relationship building.

**Goal 3:** To promote Gospel values in our society by recognizing the dignity of all people, the importance of the family, and Christian value advocacy.

- By promoting the value of human dignity from conception to natural death, the importance of family, and more effective Christian family advocacy with parishes partnering with service groups, community groups, and other churches as they strive to meet the needs of those within their local community.

## TO RESPOND TO THIS VISION AND MEET THESE GOALS

### **It is recommended that Families/Individuals will:**

1. Discern one's spiritual gifts and charisms, as guided by the Holy Spirit and use these gifts for the spiritual build up of their families and their parish.
2. Participate regularly as a family in the Sacramental life of the Church.
3. Explore the richness of and use the many different types of prayer in the Catholic tradition and the use of Sacred Scripture as a foundation for contemplative prayer.
4. Attend retreats, formation opportunities, and/or seek spiritual direction to grow in relationship in Jesus and the Holy Spirit and look to the Blessed Mother as the pre-emanate example of the perfect disciple.
5. Give witness to the lived experience of their relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit first in themselves through meditation, then with family and others, and to also listen to others' experience.
6. Be welcoming to those of other faiths and be willing to openly share the Catholic faith with others confidently, while constantly acting with the love of Jesus.

### **It is recommended that the Parishes/Schools will:**

1. Establish an Evangelization Committee.
2. Work with their Evangelization Committee in developing the parish strengths and weaknesses assessment report and the Parish Discipleship Plan detailing how the parish will implement the universal call to holiness and mission of evangelization of all people within their parish.
3. Promote Gospel values by recognizing the dignity of all people, the importance of the family, and Christian value advocacy.

### **It is recommended that the Regions/Vicariate will:**

1. Ensure through the Regional Moderator that each Vicariate has an active Evangelization Committee.
2. Coordinate with parishes to complete their strengths and weaknesses assessment report and their implementation plan (Parish Discipleship Plan).
3. Support, encourage, and implement programs for outreach and reconciliation with inactive Catholics, ecumenical dialogue and inter-faith relationship building.
4. Promote the universal call to holiness as a goal of all activities within the Vicariate, as articulated in documents such as *Novo Millennio Inuente*, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, *et al.*
5. Promote and encourage united advocacy efforts focusing on human dignity, family and all Christian values.

### **It is recommended that the Archdiocese will:**

1. Develop comprehensive tools and reporting processes for parishes to use in assessing their strengths and weaknesses and provide guidance to developing an implementation plan consisting of goals and objectives (Parish Discipleship Plan) that addresses how the parish will implement the plan in light of their strengths and weaknesses.
2. Ensure the comprehensive assessment tools emphasizes growing in holiness, the virtuous life, and an awareness of the Holy Spirit in parishioner's lives, identify parishioner's spiritual gifts, how they are used within the parish, school and/or Catholic institution, their willingness to share their faith, and their understanding of discipleship with support by the use of Sacred Scripture and Tradition, using the Catechism as a guide.

3. Develop and oversee regional, vicariate, parish, and online formation opportunities focusing on evangelization and catechesis, conversion, the call to holiness, mission, and discipleship, thus moving parishes and faithful from a mode of maintenance to mission.
4. Develop and facilitate Evangelization Committee formation workshops for vicariates, and parishes.
5. Develop approaches and programs aimed at reaching out to inactive Catholics, including ecumenical dialogue and inter-faith relationship building, with the understanding that before dialogue we need formation in announcing and witnessing of our faith.
6. Offer workshops, conferences, gatherings and online resource materials in areas of the dignity of the human person and family life, including parenting, handing down the faith, evangelizing the family, building Catholic culture in the home and inviting fallen away Catholics back to the Church, etc..
7. Offer guidance to parishes on best practices in collaborating with other groups and organizations to facilitate a more effective and united advocacy effort.

**It is recommended that the Archbishop will:**

1. Proclaim that evangelization is the primary mission of the Church and call upon all Catholics to devote them-selves to this mission through continued catechesis, prayer, worship, and acts of charity.
2. Provide formation for clergy and lay ministry in the ministry of evangelization and catechesis.
3. Call the people of the Archdiocese to a deeper, “spirit-filled” life of infused prayer, promoting the rich and broad heritage of Catholic spirituality.
4. Establish that parishes will move from maintenance to mission.
5. Call for a new emphasis on the return of inactive Catholics through open dialogue and healing of those issues hindering their coming home.
6. Encourage all clergy to participate in inter-faith relationship building and ecumenical dialogue, and develop new ways to collaborate in bringing God’s love to those suffering.
7. Promote Gospel values by recognizing the importance of the family, the dignity of all people, and the importance of Christian value advocacy by all Catholics.