

## Transformation: Living Christ's Mission Today

The heart of Parish Transformation lies in making a commitment to live Christ's Mission. To become missionary disciples, however, we must first understand the mission entrusted to us.

Jesus came into the world to bring salvation and the promise of eternal life. While he walked among us, He cured the sick with compassion, forgave the sinner with mercy, cared for the poor and the outcast with tenderness, and taught the essence of the law which is to love one another as He loves us. During Jesus's short time on earth, he embodied the Kingdom of God. In Romans 14:17, we learn that "the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Pope Francis contends that the "kingdom is at once both gift and promise. It has already been given to us in Jesus, but it has yet to be realized in its fullness." When we pray to the Father, "Thy kingdom come," we acknowledge our mission to fulfill what Jesus began, to model our lives after Christ in order to bring God's Kingdom to fruition.



Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He commissioned His apostles with the words, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20). Knowing how afraid they were at being left alone, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to fill them with the courage needed to spread His word even in the face of persecution. At Baptism and again at Confirmation, we are also filled with the Holy Spirit and commissioned to carry out Christ's Mission. As we go about the business of living, we are witnesses to our Faith by our words, but more so by our actions. Do we emulate and spread the joy of our faith in how we live? Are we reaching out to others with care, sharing our time, talent, and treasure?

Parishes that are vibrant, faith-filled communities have members who support one another and also reach out to the larger community to bring the light of Christ to others. As Jesus's disciples, we must be living examples of His compassion, mercy, tenderness, and love. One of the many ways our parish carries out Christ's mission is through the work of our Sharing Ministry and The Needy Family Fund. Fr. Ron Lewinsky, in his opening remarks in the Mission Workbook, proclaims that Transformation can be a "new Pentecost" for a parish. Let us build on the good work we already do. Let us go beyond our comfort zone as the apostles did. Filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let us spread the good news of God's Kingdom with its promise of salvation and eternal life.

