

FROM YOUR PASTOR

In his letter, Unleash the Gospel, which summarizes the work of the Synod on Evangelization of November 2016, Archbishop Vigneron offers a number of proposals and action steps for families, for the Archdiocesan Central Services and for parishes. You may review these propositions at the end of the letter or attend the gatherings on “Unleash the Gospel” on the next three Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Without going into them in detail here, there is a basic vision that guides these propositions.

Families will be encouraged to live in a counter-cultural way by praying together, being attentive to Scripture, by recognizing the Eucharist as central to Christian life, by unusually gracious hospitality, by including people on the margins of society and by joyful hope in the providence of God, even in difficult and stressful times. Those families that are already living this lifestyle can be models to the newly married and new parents in parish life.

Parishes will be founded on prayer and on a culture of encountering Christ. The mission of the parish will be to enable people to have a deeper relationship with Christ and to share that experience with those who are yearning for it. The parish will particularly welcome those that are seeking meaning in their lives and give them opportunities to encounter Christ. The parish will also mobilize for evangelization. Individuals and families will learn methodologies for sharing their faith with others. Parish activities and resources will be aligned with the fundamental commitment to evangelization. Parish leadership will manifest a healthy teamwork that is oriented to equip the parishioners with formation, planning and resources to initiate and realize meaningful endeavors to share the Gospel with others throughout the parish community and its boundaries.

Finally, the Archdiocesan Central Services will provide strategic support to parishes and Catholic entities such as schools and hospitals and model the personal, spiritual and leadership characteristics of joyful missionary disciples.

To achieve this vision for families and parishes, members of Central Services will be guiding parishes throughout the Archdiocese in a review of all current parish activities and operations to determine which ones support the vision of evangelization. Each parish will also be guided in forming strategic plans to direct its evangelizing efforts in the future. Our parish will begin this process in either the fall of 2020 or the spring of 2021.

In my article next week, I would like to outline the process that each parish will undertake to develop strategic plans for becoming more mission oriented.

Blessings,

Fr. John