

Equipping the Saints

In his *Letter to the Ephesians*, St. Paul talked about equipping the saints. Often he referred to the members of the Church as “saints”, meaning they were all on the path to holiness by following the way of Jesus Christ. Paul explained that gifts are given to all the members of the Church to serve other members of the Church, “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (*Eph 4:12*). This is also the commission Jesus gave to the Apostles after the Resurrection, sending out the disciples to make disciples: “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, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you” (*Matt 28:19-20a*).

TO DO LIST:

- ✓ growth in personal holiness – each person drawing closer to Jesus through prayer;
- ✓ on-going conversion – recognizing ways we can be better Christians by “turning away from sin and believing in the Gospel”;
- ✓ spiritual renewal – allowing the Holy Spirit to work through the gifts we received at Confirmation: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and awe and wonder in the presence of the Lord.



Jesus said to his disciples, “I came to give life, and to give it abundantly”
(*John 10:10*).

WE ARE HELPED BY:

Dynamic preaching with intentional catechesis: through the cycles of Sunday readings of Scripture, we learn all the basic teachings of the Church;

Celebrating our faith in liturgies with music that calls us to worship and moves us to action;

The radiating grace of the sacraments, sacred moments on our life’s journey that nourish us, strengthen us, and bind us as one in the Body of Christ.

“The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life” (*Lumen Gentium, 11*).

WE ARE FORMED AS INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES SO THAT WE MIGHT...

Live the sacraments as true signs of faith, purifying and elevating this earthly life to the realm of the heavenly life;

Proclaim Jesus Christ as the centre of our lives here and now, and as the goal of our lives in the world to come;

Witness by an authentic Christian life given over to God in service of our neighbour, especially those on the margins of our society, our community.

**Jesus said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
(Matt 25: 40)**



“Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”
(Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*, 1)

IN WITNESSING TO JESUS WE...

Invite others into an encounter with the Lord Jesus so that they, too, may come to know and love him as the centre and goal of their lives;

Lead others to make changes in our communities, our society, our world, to bring about the common good through justice, liberation, peace and development;

Foster unity among Christians building on those things we have in common, and sharing with them the fullness of the revelation as taught, celebrated and lived in the communion of the Catholic Church.

As saints on the road to holiness, we are equipped to become **intentional disciples** of Jesus Christ, so that we can witness to his love and make more disciples, to spread the Good News and to change our world... for God... For the good... For all!



**People today listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.
(cf. Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41)**

Watch for part 3 coming this fall: “Our Pioneer Families”