



BUILDING OUR CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP

love God love others make disciples

Building a Culture of Discipleship Part 2

Dear Parishioners,

While we know that the circumstances which limit our lives in so many ways right now are not going to change suddenly, or anytime soon, as the world continues to gradually open up, it is important that what we have learned in this time of pandemic brings us to a “new time”. We, our lives, and our families will never be the same. What things did we celebrate and what things did we realize brought us joy while we were “locked down”? It was probably very different things than what we searched for before our lives were so restricted. And so, to remain true to our conviction to BE different as a community of faith, we want to share and rejoice in different ways now.

As you know, over the past few years, we have tried to make our parish mission statement the focus of all that we have done. At this point, hopefully, everyone knows what that mission is: love God, love others, make disciples and that we didn't make it up, but that it follows the great commandment and the great commission. We on staff at Holy Family have been working and growing through a process to further develop our ability to guide and lead the changes to our parish culture that will open up the opportunities for everyone to BE disciples and to MAKE disciples.

Our recent podcasts described a lot of this work which was supported by the team at Amazing Parish organization, and outlined that the foundational building blocks to unleash this shift to real discipleship are a **culture of prayer, a culture of healthy teamwork and a culture of active discipleship**. The next step for us is to share this with more and more people. We have started inviting small groups of parishioners to be part of **three simple conversations** which we believe will open the doors of their hearts to a deeper faith that enables them to not only share it with others, but to also be joyful in doing so. This is all based on our relationships with each other, the people in our lives, and importantly our lived relationship with God.

The first conversation will focus on encouraging and empowering each other to truly and openly ask for prayers for ourselves. We are all very good at praying for others, for extending special intentions for all that is wrong with the world, but how are we at sitting in the stillness and quiet of our own needs and being able to ask another to pray for us? And then, through our interactions with the people in our lives when we hear of their struggles and difficulties, how are we at responding, right there, in that very moment, to pray for and over them? This might seem strange to us, we may not be used to being so open and spontaneous in our prayer...but if we believe, if we truly believe in praying to God, then why would this not be part of our daily lives in a way that is real? If you want to feel cared for, loved and prayed for in a way that you have not experienced before, then you will want to be a part of these conversations.

Let us all grow in our personal prayer life as a parish community and be part of this amazing journey! May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire us to be disciples of Jesus.

Fr. László Nagy and
Parish Leadership Team