



# **BUILDING OUR CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP**

love God love others make disciples

## **Building a Culture of Discipleship Part 3**

Dear Parishioners,

Each and every person here at Holy Family is on their own journey of faith. There can be no presumptions about what people know or what they have experienced, or how they have come to believe and understand their faith. There is the need in all cases for the necessary catechesis for all of us to learn about the fundamentals of our Catholic faith. And while it seems that our tradition and preferences for personal comfort have been that faith is a personal and very private thing, we have come to understand this: that it is definitely personal, but that it can only deepen, and we only become disciples through living and sharing our faith with others. But it is important to note that this living and sharing is based on our real and caring relationships with those others. This has been a big part of the changes that have taken place in our parish over these past few years. More and more people know each other and have developed the interpersonal relationships that have opened their lives to sharing faith with each other.

What is the basis of our faith? There is the saying that the answer to all questions is: Jesus! The person of Jesus, who we can know intimately and have a relationship with, who was human, and is divine, suffered, died and rose again to assume all of our sins, shame and guilt, is the very basis and source of our faith. It is through Jesus that we are able to even begin to understand and know our heavenly Father, God. But it also through the lived example of Jesus that we can know how to experience our lives in a way that brings us closer and closer to God.

As we enter into this “new time” of life that we are all in right now, still apprehensive about the pandemic, realizing the changes in the world and our lives which lead us to focus on those things that are truly important and life-giving, we are all invited to consider and explore how our faith will impact this “new time”. And in this stressful and worrisome time, do you feel the presence of Jesus in your life in a way that brings you peace? We have begun to meet in small groups with people to join in three simple conversations that have the capacity to open our hearts to that real and meaningful depth of faith that can make a difference in our lives. Last week we spoke about the first conversation being about prayer – specifically to ask for prayers for our own needs, and to pray for others.

The second conversation is simply a question: How did you come to know Jesus? Interesting question, isn't it? For some, it may have been a gradual process over a lifetime of coming to know who Jesus is, for others it may have been a dramatic and sudden experience. Some of us may never have even considered this question, but if we are to be truly engaged in following Jesus to go out and make disciples, and if our faith is to be a very real part of our personal and daily lives, then we should be able to reflect on how we came to know him, just as we think about how we grow in relationship with anyone else. Some people speak of an “encounter” with Christ, and they may have had that very real type of experience, but it is not the only or necessary way to know Christ. The important thing is that we do discover him in a way that we do know him as a friend in our lives, that we do follow him in how we live and contribute to this world, and that we share our joy and love of him to evangelize and make disciples.

We invite everyone to be a part of helping us continue to build our culture of discipleship at Holy Family. Please look for more information, more opportunities, and consider saying “yes” when you are invited to have a conversation about your faith.

May God continue to bless us all, and strengthen us with His Spirit for living in this time and place.

Fr. László Nagy and  
Parish Leadership Team