

# Building a Culture of Discipleship

September 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We hope you are doing well, and feeling that even through the strange circumstances of the Covid pandemic you have been able to maintain your relationships outside of your home and that you have also been able to rely on your faith and remain close to God. Holy Family has been open for Masses for over two months now, and the number of people returning to the church is increasing. We have been so very happy to see everyone, and to welcome them back! Despite the many challenges during this time, we tried to continue our focus and work on our mission to love God, love others, and make disciples. It has been so affirming and exciting to see the lively engagement that has grown through our switch to on-line opportunities.

As our world continues to open up, and we prepare for the fall when typically many activities resume and people return, we have been focused on the idea of this now being a “new time” when some things will be as they were, but many will be different and changed. Spiritually we can ask ourselves some questions too, “How is my faith changed now? What place have I given my relationship with God in this time? What have I learned or realized that now impacts my decisions about what is truly important and what is not?”

There is much for us to learn and take from the experience of the last 6 months...and it is not over yet. So, how are we changed? How will we be “different” in this new time? The timing perhaps could not have been better for us to now turn to the third part of our parish mission, and the great commission that Jesus gave to His disciples and to all of us, to “go and make disciples of all nations” Mt. 28:19. We now need to reflect on our own personal journey of following Christ, and how our actions and lives not only make us disciples individually, but also how that builds a culture of discipleship in our parish community of faith.

If you have been able to watch our recent podcasts over the summer, you know that we have been very involved as a parish leadership team with our coaching partners at Amazing Parish. We have undertaken a process to continue the growth and nurturing of our focus on our mission to BE an Amazing Parish. This means further developing our culture of prayer, our culture of healthy teamwork and our culture of active discipleship. And now, in this time, we are compelled by the spirit and energy of how this has impacted us as the Holy Family staff to begin to share this with others. In broader and broader circles of people, others will be invited to experience the sharing of some simple conversations to help further this culture of discipleship.

We ask for your continued prayers for our Mission, and for this journey of building our culture of discipleship at Holy Family. Know that every time we gather, we will be keeping all of you, the parishioners of our parish in our prayers. May God bless our work together, and send the Holy Spirit to inspire us and show us how to be disciples of Jesus.

Fr. László Nagy and  
Parish Leadership Team