

KNOW YOUR PARISH & KNOW YOUR MISSION

Christ calls each of us to make disciples, not simply maintain programs. The 5 Ps provide a practical framework to evaluate every aspect of parish life—from longstanding traditions to new formation initiatives. This approach helps foster a culture of intentional evangelization, ensuring that every gathering—large or small—becomes an opportunity for encountering Jesus, growing in faith, and forming missionary disciples.

PRAYER

- Form a culture of prayer within your parish leadership, modeling it for the whole parish.
- Encourage those you encounter in ministry to share their prayer intentions with you, then pray with them, encouraging them to do the same.

Ask: *Do I intentionally ground my ministry work in prayer, and as a ministry team, do we regularly pray together beyond the opening and closing prayers at meetings?*

PURPOSE

- Know your parish mission statement and use every gathering as an opportunity to evangelize.
- Understand the why behind each ministry initiative; share clearly how it fits into the parish's mission.

Ask: *How does this meeting/program/initiative fit into the mission of the parish?*

PEOPLE

- Gather a core team and train them for relational ministry.
- Come to know the individuals you are serving, asking them what you can do to help them grow in their relationship with Christ.

Ask: *Who am I here to serve, what are their needs, and who will help me serve them?*

PROCESS

- Bring the Purpose to life by formulating a clear, mission-oriented action plan that incorporates available resources, contains a structure and flow, and meets the needs of your People.
- Clearly communicate this plan by providing a roadmap that outlines where the group is headed, what is expected, and how your team will accompany them on their discipleship journey.

Ask: *What is the plan, structure, and sequence that will help us achieve fruitfulness in this ministry?*

PROGRAM

- This is the practical expression of the Purpose, designed with and for your People, and delivered through a defined Process.
- The program itself is not the goal, but only a means by which encounters of faith emerge by engaging together with purpose.

Ask: *With sustained accompaniment, will the content of this program create a pathway to lifelong discipleship?*

“The time has come to re-propose wholeheartedly to everyone this high standard of ordinary Christian living. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

— St. Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, §31 (2001)