

Holy Apostles

Culture of Missionary Discipleship

Glossary

Apostolate – How all Catholics live out their baptismal call by sharing the Gospel in personal and creative ways.

At Holy Apostles, we recognize especially that lay faithful have the mission to sanctify the temporal order (secular world). They do this by recruiting their particular gifts and charisms to evangelize in the particular circumstances of their state of life. The ministries of the parish are meant to form and equip disciples to freely live this part of their vocation. All the baptized are called to apostolate, some are called to ministry.

- As individuals or as a group
- Accountable to themselves
- Spontaneous and diverse
- Not functionally/ structurally dependent on parish administration/systems
- Can take place at home (bible studies, mentorships, etc.), coffee shops, soup kitchens, etc.

Apostolate Leaders – Parishioners who lead others in group apostolates.

These leaders help join others to their work, orienting the gifts and contributions of their fellow apostles. Apostolate Leaders should be well formed to represent the authentic Catholic faith as expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. They receive ongoing formation and support through parish ministries.

Authentic Friendship – The deeper relationships Christians are meant to share that expresses and helps them grow in their Catholic faith.

Together seeking to grow in Divine Intimacy, characterized by honesty, openness/vulnerability, time investment. Christian friends are drawn together because of sincere interest in the other, showing respect and hospitality as signs of their friendship. They not only seek to help each other grow but are also outwardly focused, on mission together.

Catechesis - *Catechesis is nothing other than the process of transmitting the Gospel, as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it and communicates it in many ways.* (General Directory for Catechesis #105)

“Catechesis is a life-long process of initial conversion, formation, education, and on-going conversion. Through word, worship, service and community, it seeks to lead all God's people to an ever deepening relationship with God who reveals himself in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Catechesis takes many forms and includes the initiation of adults, youth and children as well as

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the intentional and systematic effort to enable all to grow in faith and discipleship.” (Source: <http://www.catechesis-chicago.org/>)

Co-Responsibility – The idea that every Catholic has a role to play in building up a healthy and active Church.

A concept that draws attention to the complementary roles exercised by the lay faithful and the clergy for the life and health of the Church. Rather than expressing a relationship of competition for leadership and influence, based on a false understanding of the Church as a power-based institution, co-responsibility highlights the role of all the baptized to build up the Body of Christ and bring the Gospel to the world. The ordained have the role of sanctifying the Church; the lay faithful have the role of sanctifying the world.

Culture of Discipleship – The intentional shared way of life for Catholics in the parish that builds up and shapes disciples of Jesus Christ.

The attitude and informed habits of a parish that engage, equip, and empower the lay faithful to intentionally live as disciples of Jesus, seen especially in the exercise of their personal apostolate. Holy Apostles is dedicated to and focused on building such a culture at the parish.

- An expression of co-responsibility for the health/life of the Church
- The parish is a “saint making factory”; ministries are oriented to sending forth well-formed disciples
- All ministries and apostolates understand themselves as part of this culture
- Through formal/ institutional as well as informal/spontaneous expressions in parish life
- Self-replicating among ministries, apostolates, and parishioners

Discipleship – The lifestyle and identity of those who have come to know Jesus Christ and his saving presence in their lives.

They are called by God and seek to daily respond to this call through prayer, the sacraments, ongoing conversion and Christian formation.

Divine Intimacy – A deep and personal encounter with Jesus Christ that increasingly becomes a transformative relationship.

It is rooted in regular prayer/conversation with God, an active sacramental life, ongoing conversion, and a deepening sense of the virtues of faith, hope, and love. It helps to ground one’s Christian identity and becomes a source of refreshment and renewal.

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Kerygma – A Greek term that means “preaching.” For Christians, the *kerygma* is the proclamation of the Good News of salvation. It can be summarized in five points:

1. God loves me unconditionally and has created me for friendship with him
2. Sin has broken my friendship with God
3. Jesus was born, died, and rose again to save me
4. Jesus invites me to trust Him, to turn from sin and to give my life to Him
5. Jesus has given me the Holy Spirit in my heart through Baptism and calls me to live a new life through the Sacraments in His Church

Mature Discipleship – A more “adult” way of living as a faithful and fruitful disciple of Jesus.

An important stage in the life of a Christian disciple, characterized by a knowledge of and relationship with Jesus Christ, a willingness and intention to go deeper in this relationship through ongoing conversion, prayer, an active sacramental life, faith formation (Scripture reading, devotions, study), and healthy relationships. This does not happen in isolation but through friendship, usually called “discipleship” where one is raised to this maturity by another mature Christian. Having thus “apprenticed”, the mature Christian can offer this role for another.

Ministry – A way that the parish supports the formation and sending of disciples.

An extension of the pastor’s mission of *sanctifying* (liturgy), *teaching* (catechesis), and *governing* (leadership); Lay faithful can participate in these roles in a special cooperative manner as needed, serving the internal needs of the parish.

- Accountable to the pastor and staff
- Stable and limited in scope
- Essential expression of the life of the parish (the parish cannot function without it)
- May involve programs but programs are not ministry in themselves. They are a way that a ministry exercises its purpose
- Exists to facilitate apostolates

Ministry Leaders – Parishioners who participate in the specific expressions of the pastor’s role to teach/govern/sanctify.

They are under the direct oversight of the pastor and parish staff, following the pastoral plans, guidelines, governing documents, and requirements of the parish and diocese. They receive ongoing formation and support directly from the parish staff. They are expected to ensure everything they do is in keeping with the expectations of the pastor/staff.

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Mission of the Universal Church – *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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age.* Mt 28:19-20

CCC 849: *The missionary mandate:* "Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be 'the universal sacrament of salvation,' the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men."

CCC 850 *The origin and purpose of mission.* The Lord's missionary mandate is ultimately grounded in the eternal love of the Most Holy Trinity: "The Church on earth is by her nature missionary since, according to the plan of the Father, she has as her origin the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit." The ultimate purpose of mission is none other than to make men share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love.

The Holy Spirit is the protagonist, "the principal agent of the whole of the Church's mission."

Mystagogy – "To lead through the mysteries."

After receiving full initiation, this is the process of entering the self-revelation of God more deeply through ongoing study, worship, community, and personal prayer. It relies upon the ongoing support of the Catholic community to protect and foster the young faith of newly initiated members as well as the witness of ongoing formation of mature discipleship. *Mystagogia* is aimed at mature discipleship.

Parish Council – A body formed of actively engaged and well-formed disciples that understands the Culture of Discipleship, advises the Pastor on the life and health of the parish, sets the strategy for implementing the Pastor's vision, and assists in looking after the long-term life of the parish.

Parish Pipeline – The system that, regardless of their starting point, can receive someone, engage them, equip them, and empower them to live their Christian discipleship.

- Essential part of the Culture of Discipleship
- Phase I (Kerygma); Phase II (Catechesis); Phase III (Mystagogy)
- Leads to:
 - Relationships of maturing discipleship
 - Potential leadership in:
 - * Personal Apostolate
 - * Parish Ministry
 - Ongoing training opportunities to develop gifts and grow spiritual life

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Parish Resources – The parish’s resources (clergy, staff, leadership building, finances, schedule) are limited and therefore must be prioritized to fulfilling the mission of the parish.

This is done firstly through the ministries and then through the apostolates. The parish resources depend in large part on good Stewardship of Finances, through offertory, bequests, and other financial gifts to the parish. Parish Stewardship ensures that the resources are best used to form the People of God in their faith (teach), celebrate the sacraments (sanctify), and equip, empower, and mobilize them in fulfilling the mission of the Church.

Parish Staff – Members that work to tactically implement the strategies set by the Parish Council, in conjunction with the Pastor.

They work towards building the culture of Stewardship and Discipleship on a daily basis, offer feedback to the Pastor and Parish Council, and work as an extension of the Pastor’s three-part roles to *teach, govern, and sanctify*.

Spiritual Multiplication – When disciples of Jesus Christ cooperate with the Holy Spirit to make more disciples of Jesus Christ.

As the Lord told his disciples they are to bear fruit that will last, each Christian is called to help others to find the Divine Intimacy that animates them, and build up others as disciples through authentic friendship. Christian disciples are convicted about the need to fulfill the mandate to “go and make disciples.”

Stewardship – The way a disciple lives their everyday life.

Recognizing God’s blessings in all areas of our lives, we grow in gratitude and take responsibility for these areas, seeking to care for them and make them to grow. At Holy Apostles, we focus on specific areas and intentionally commit to living our discipleship as stewards of: Prayer, Faith, Finances, Vocations, Personal Stewardship, God’s Creation, and Service.

Vocation – A calling by God for those he has created and redeemed through his Son to share in his Divine life and cooperate his grace in the particulars of our own lives.

Every baptized person has a vocation to become a saint (Universal Call to Holiness). This is through a particular vocation such as marriage and family life, through consecration or dedication as a single person, through religious life, and through the priesthood. These each require, in their own way, formation and perseverance. Most Catholics are called to live their vocation to holiness as lay men and women who live and work in the world. These saints-in-the-making have as their vocation the sanctification of the temporal order, or the world in which they live.