



NEW WINE CONFERENCE 2019

**FROM
MAINTENANCE
TO
MISSIONARY**



CONFERENCE NOTES

+ The Mission:

GO, therefore, **MAKE DISCIPLES** of all nations;
BAPTISE them in the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and **TEACH** them to
observe all the commands I gave you.

(Matthew 28:19)

From Maintenance To **MISSIONARY**

PROGRAM

Do we know or do we not know?

- impressions of non-ministry parishioners on those in the ministries

Talk 1 - 'A silent killer'

- by Fr Terence Pereira

Talk 2 - 'The Good News: an open secret'

- by Fr Valerian Cheong

What do we think we know?

- questions and quiz time

LUNCH

Talk 3 - 'The missionary conversion'

- by Fr Terence Pereira

So what's the answer?

- exploring some possible ways to be more missionary minded

Lessons from the Trenches

- learning from the experience of different parishes

Putting on the 'Missionary Viewfinder'

- checking and evaluating our plans

Conclusion

Talk 1

A 'Silent Killer'

Are we sick?

What is this 'silent killer'?

Business NOT as usual

Is it too late?

Talk 2

The Good News: an open secret

What is the good news?

Why is it 'good'?

How have we experienced it as 'good'?

How is the 'good news' 'good' for others?

Talk 3:

A missionary conversion

What is this missionary conversion?

How does it look like?

Where do we begin?

How to move?

Lessons from the Trenches

- **OMG workshop - Church of The Blessed Sacrament**
- **Re-Educating on Vocation - Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace**
- **Parish Day of Reconciliation for Families - Church of St Vincent de Paul**
- **Teh Tarik Gathering - Church of The Blessed Sacrament**
- **First Holy Communion Programme - Church of St Anthony**
- **Prayer Intercessors - Church of The Blessed Sacrament**
- **Mother's Prayer Group - Church of St Francis Xavier**
- **Parish Demographic Survey - Church of St Michael**
- **Parish Retreat - Church of St Bernadette**
- **Christmas Fiesta - Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary**
- **Leadership Renewal - Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**
- **Preparing for Confirmation - Church of St Anthony**

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of The Blessed Sacrament

OMG! workshop

Practice:

To create an outward looking culture, cultivating a missionary zeal

Aim:

To empower parishioners with a skillset to evangelise in their daily lives with friends and family members. To overcome the culture of non-active evangelisation or fear in Catholics to do active evangelisation.

Description:



?

OMG! Workshop

How Should I Talk About My Faith Journey?

A practical evangelisation workshop!

Using your own real-life experiences and 1st person coaching, you will acquire the skillset in engaging different types of friends or family members in discussions about your faith journey.

"When and How do I engage a 'Hostile', 'Open', 'Curious', 'Seeking' or 'Christian' friend or family member?"

Let yourself be empowered in this 2½ hour workshop!

Why is this effective:

The workshop uses the participants' own experiences to consider better responses to open, or continue a dialogue on life questions or faith issues. With some preparation to share their faith stories & being better equipped to respond to their friends or family members, the participants' fears or apprehensions can be overcome. This will help them to pray for and be more alert to opportunities to evangelise and do evangelisation work when the opportunities arise.

Challenges:

- 1) To catechise parishioners including leaders that evangelisation is not optional and is a core identity of being a disciple of Jesus.
- 2) Leaders who see the value of the workshop have difficulties getting members to attend the workshop.
- 3) Most participants are not comfortable to verbalise suggested responses in 1st person.
- 4) Whilst the workshop emphasised 'seeking the lost' at every opportunity, it sets an interim goal of reaching out to 10 persons over next 5 months. Many are hesitant.

Learning points (how it can be improved):

- 1) The trainers initially gave post-workshop support via a group chat for 2 weeks for participants to share their efforts in evangelisation, and for trainers to encourage, offer feedback, suggestions or assistance to participants as it takes courage to step out of the comfort zone to evangelise to the first few persons. The post-training chat group has now been extended to a month due to the interim goal of reaching out to 10 persons over 5 months after the training. It is hoped that once a participant reaches out to the first 2 persons, there will be more confidence to continue evangelising.
- 2) Parish Priest & Spiritual Directors need to make demands of ministry members as disciples of Christ.
- 3) Parish Priest and Assistant Parish Priests need to catechise parishioners on and off pulpit about the Great Commission of the resurrected Jesus; what that entails in both Christian living and in verbal communication.

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of Queen of Peace

Re-Educating on Vocation

Practice:

Promote the profile of the Vocation ministry, rebranding it as “Called to Love” and undertaking a series of initiatives to introduce the full breadth of what Vocation entails.

Aim:

To raise consciousness that ‘Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being’ (St Pope John Paul), and inculcate in all (particularly the young) a culture of vocation, discernment and response to the call of Christ.

Why is this effective?

- Efforts to (re)educate what is commonly misunderstood as “vocations = holy orders” have started to take root;
- Focusing on different sub-themes at each bi-monthly session, living our “vocations” can be showcased in real and concrete terms (sharing by married couple with family, engaged couple, religious, priests);
- The bi-monthly Hour of Grace (scripture and homily, intercessory prayers, Benediction, special blessings on Valentine’s, NS enlistment time, exam period) and semi-annual Masses focus on the importance of discernment and community prayer;
- To raise consciousness, Vocation Prayer introduced parish-wide, and Prayers of Faithful incorporated a tailored prayer for vocation every 2nd Sunday of the month, covering all states of life;
- Well received Religious Forum in May celebrating Good Shepherd/Vocations’ month,

where 11 congregations, male and female, shared their charisms and stories, attended by 150 children, youths and young adults (altar servers, Legionaries, Confirmation class).

- Effective publicity channels utilised: CN reports, video clips on FB, social media posts, posters, bulletins, Mass announcements/pulpit invites, catechists/servers/ Legionaries engaged in advance;
- Follow up with JOY Career Forum showcasing parishioners across various job vocations, sharing call stories, joys and challenges of living their Catholic values.

Challenges:

- Slow traction reversing years of preconception and culture towards “vocation”;
- Minimal appreciation for Thursday evening Holy Hour of Grace with Benediction (unless with popular celebrants);
- Small team start-up vs resource-intensive initiatives, momentum required;
- Parish fatigue from multiple programmes means dilution of interests.

Learning points (how it can be improved):

- Maximum and consistent publicity needed in creative ways;
- Partnership and collaboration with other ministries and bodies (e.g. FLM, CEP, ME/EE, CBN) to be built;
- Constant engagement with youth needed to cater to their schedules, needs and interests;
- Young adults outreach to be enhanced.

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of St Vincent de Paul

Parish Day of Reconciliation for Families

Practice:

A Half-Day programme on “Living the Catholic Faith in My Family”

It started with Family Rosary in the Church for everyone and then break-up sessions as follows:

1. Adults (25 years & above) by a Family Counselling Psychologist
2. Youths (16 - 24) by Youths & Young Adults Ministry
3. Children (L7 - L9) by Catechists
4. Children (L4 - L6) by Catechists
5. Children (L1 - L3) by Catechists
6. Pre-primary Children by CGS

It ended with Consecration of Families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Aim:

To encourage families to pray and to come for spiritual formation together, with the parents setting the example.

Why Effective:

- A family that prays together stays together
- Provides opportunities for parents to lead by example
- Parents share with one another their best practices and their challenges
- Parents need not worry about leaving their children at home when they come to church
- Encourage families to practice devotion to our Blessed Mother

Challenges:

- Because of the young children, difficult to stretch the program beyond half-day
- Not able to reach out to parents and families who are not active in practising their faith

Learning Points:

- It is a one-off program; need follow-up or more regular sessions to be effective
- Provide more time for the members of each family to share and discuss

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of The Blessed Sacrament

Teh Tarik Gathering

Practice:

Building rapport and trust between Priests and parishioners. The Teh Tarik Gathering session is a chit chat session.

Aim:

To gather a small group of parishioners at the home of a host to meet with one of the Priests or FMM Sisters. For the Religious to foster trust and know the ground better - "be shepherds with the smell of the sheep".

A Teh Tarik Gathering ("TTG") is :

- a) NOT a lecture, preaching or teaching session;
- b) NOT a "talk by a Priest or Religious";
- c) NOT a recruitment exercise to get them to join any group; and
- d) NOT for promoting or push any church programs

Why is this effective:

Both the parishioners (called 'guests') and the Religious are guided to share about their struggles and attempts at living up to the demands of the faith or challenges of life. Guests are also encouraged to share how they think the Parish can help with their problems or struggles. It does not have any other agenda during the session.

New friendships are formed during such sessions. Some express interest to carry on further meetings. Early fruits – A few have proceeded to attend the OMG workshop on practical evangelisation whilst a few have now been trained to be facilitators for further TTG sessions.

Parishioners do not get to have decent conversations with Priests after weekend Masses, maybe just blessing of religious articles etc. as there are always other parishioners waiting for their turns to catch the Priests' attention. At TTG, the parishioners have some quality time with one of the Priests or Religious Sisters.

Sharings of each other's challenges help to support fellow Catholics to feel they are not alone in their problems and that they can potentially support each other after having met in these TTG sessions.

Challenges:

- Very few parishioners come forward to register for the TTG sessions.
- Reaching out to parishioners to register after Masses is not easy as most rush off. Many either just walk pass with no reaction or make some excuses.
- Many who are interested have difficulty committing to the scheduled date and time as they have uncertain work schedule which may require them to work overtime with little or no notice.
- Some guests don't turn up on the session itself without notice.
- Invitation for hosts to open their homes. They may open their homes for NCC but shun away from TTG because a family member is lapse and doesn't want a Priest in their home. Other reasons are like home is too small, have pets, timing not right, etc.

Learning points (how it can be improved):

- No one registered for our first run of 3 sessions in June 2019 when only announcements were made at Weekend Masses. We had to solicit parishioners leaving after Masses to come for TTG. Persistence is needed to keep trying to reach out to the parishioners.
- Initially very few parishioners offer their talents and services to assist. After 3 sessions a month since June 2019, several of the guests from past sessions are willing to step forth to assist, especially in registration after Masses. We need to continue to influence others with the desire to reach out to parishioners.
- The initial fear that if a group is too small, eg, only 3 or 4 guests, the session would not be fruitful did not materialise. With more time to listen to one another, the session seems more fruitful.

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of St Anthony

First Holy Communion Programme in the Neighbourhood

Practice:

12-Week First Holy Communion Program in the Neighbourhoods

Aim:

To prepare children to receive their First Holy Communion, to form parents on the Eucharist and to build new community bonds.

Why is this effective:

Parents and children are required to attend, both learn about the Sacrament of the Eucharist, changing their experience and encounter of God in the mass, forging new links between fellow Catholics in the same neighbourhood. Parents who are initially resistant often change by the 2nd to 3rd sessions. Many parents have taken up ministry work including EMHC, choir and AV. The reverence and participation at mass has improved. An estimated 50% of the parish were parents or children who went through the program over a period of 10 years or more.

Challenges:

Not all parents can accept the commitment required, need well-formed and able facilitators, logistics, families with several children, parents who are not accommodating to others in the group, mixed marriages, 'hostile' spouses who are sometimes lapsed Catholics!

Learning points (how it can be improved):

Many parents do not know their faith and therefore need to be engaged through programs embedded into their children's catechesis. Need more trained and able facilitators and to provide better training. Simpler material and more engaging material that more people can relate to or understand.

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of The Blessed Sacrament

Parish Intercessors

Practice:

Intercessions for Parish Needs

Aim:

To allow the Office of the Parish Priest to have a ready group of intercessors to intercede for the Parish needs. To bring intercessory prayers onto the ground eg, prayer walks at identified areas of the Parish territory.

Description:

Parish Intercessors come from members of existing prayer ministries/groups and interested parishioners. Parish Intercessors is however, not a separate ministry. Parish Intercessors was assessed to be critical to the success of any major initiative of the Parish as that will always involve spiritual warfare in a big way.

Why is this effective:

Spiritual warfare is at all levels and more so in major undertakings. For the ministries, groups or individuals who have committed to this undertaking, it allows for each of their effort to be synergised as one. The Parish Intercessors are spread across every day of the week to allow for constant and consistent intercessions.

Challenges:

- 1) To sustain a continuous interest and zeal to pray together
- 2) Ministry members of various ministries finding the willingness to come together as a body of Parish Intercessors
- 3) Leaders of ministries that are part of PI having difficulties instilling the urgency of the prayer intentions within their own ministries
- 4) Certain ministries leave the Parish Intercessors after joining as they do not feel they have the "time" to pray together
- 5) Bring Parish Intercessors to the next phase of prayer walks.

Learning points (how it can be improved):

- 1) Parish Intercessors need to cultivate a lifestyle of daily personal prayer time, in order to be sustain the desire and steadfastness to intercede.
- 2) Parish Priest need to engage leaders involved in Parish intercessions by having periodic meetings to understand constraints and to give guidance. This will also give Parish Intercessors involved a sense that they have a stake in various undertakings that the Parish Priest has requested Parish Intercessors to intercede in.

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of St Francis Xavier

Mother's prayer group

Practice:

MPG follows a format of prayer developed by 2 Catholic Mothers in the UK more than 20 years ago. It also aims to be ecumenical and inclusive of those who are from different denominations, cultures and country. Weekly meeting with a set of standard prayers to the Holy Spirit/ for protection/ for forgiveness/for unity /for thanksgiving is used. There is also a scripture reading for the day for reflection and sharing.

Aim:

- Encourage and support mothers to come together to pray for their children/ grandchildren and husbands.
(At every session, individual names of our children are placed into a basket at the foot of a crucifix as a sign of surrendering them into the hands of Jesus' care and mothers intercede for specific needs of their child)
- Support each other in their motherhood journey
- Pray in support of the worldwide MPG.
- The family is the nucleus of the church. It is in the family where we pass on the faith - through Catechesis and prayer - to our children.

Why is this effective:

- There is a clear focus on the role of vocation as a mother.
- Members are from similar life stage and so it is easier to identify with the issues/challenges.
- Strict rule of confidentiality is observed.
- Mothers' burden seems to lighten as problems are shared and supported by prayer.
- Universal needs of care givers are easily identifiable among mothers.
- Help to share the Sunday's gospel in a deeper quiet manner without distractions.
- Community support.

- Prayer is powerful and when Mothers come together, we unite in prayer and constantly surrender to Jesus - both our children and ourselves. And in so doing, we see the Holy Spirit at work in our children's lives.

Challenges:

- Difficult to fit everyone's schedule.
(Some work part time and can miss several sessions, others have sudden home obligations.)
- Openness in sharing could be limited due to unfamiliarity
- Difficult to expand the group as it has its own comfort level and trust has to be built up again
- Having a regular venue (SFX is under renovations. Currently, we meet at one of the member's homes)
- Members are from different parishes
- Some are working, come when free
- Moms with younger kids harder to attend
- As one of the communities is made up of moms from other parishes, whenever SFX has an event (canteen/on site prayers) and needs resource, our members are not able to fully support the event.

Learning Points:

- Can encourage other mothers to form their own groups
- To have a weekly Intercessory list
- Some moms do their own evangelization work in their own capacity rather than as a group
- Any mom can always start another group using this standard format
- How to be a community support in the church
- How to be another arm of the church's intercessory prayer powerhouse (we may not be able to meet together with the larger group but can still be united in prayer for needs of the community)

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of St Michael

Parish Demographic Survey

Practice:

Demographic Survey

Aim:

To know the demographic of the parishioners in the parish. To use this as a baseline to plan for the parish community.

Why is this effective?

Good information when there is none available. Forms the basis for parish to know the profile of people in the parish. Help the parish to plan for different groups of people and to work on requirements based on the profile of parishioners.

Will show the urgent need for leadership succession and growth of the parish.

Challenges:

Parishioners may not provide accurate information or they may not come to the parish on a regular basis, hence the information may not be representative.

We may not reach out to those who fall within

our parish boundary and especially when they do not come to our parish.

Participation may be a challenge as not everyone want to participate in the survey.

Learning Points:

Objective of the survey must be clear. Follow up from survey must be shared with parishioners as they would like to know what happens after the survey.

Parish leaders must commit to the objectives and actions after the survey. Constant and regular communication is important to let the parishioners know what is going on.

Areas for Improvement

Give time for survey to be conducted

This survey is an opportunity for us to locate and identify Catholics who do not come to the parish and reach out to them individually. Invite them back to the parish. Perhaps SCC can facilitate this “coming back” to the parish to help ease in the individuals.

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of St Bernadette Parish Retreat

Practice:

A two and a half day retreat conducted by Gloria Patri with a focus for personal conversion through an encounter with God. This is the first step to building communities where individuals can heal and reconcile with God and one another. As a follow up to this retreat, quarterly community gathering is planned.

Aim:

Build and strengthen the communities in St Bernadette. This retreat is open to all in the parish

Why is this effective:

Strong emphasis on encountering the Holy Spirit, program includes reconciliation and healing with lots of praise and worship as well as spiritual inputs by Joseph and Fr. Andrew

Challenges:

How to motivate more parishioners to attend the session especially since it was conducted from Thursday evening through Saturday.

The crucial challenge is that the parishioners at large are not in any “structured communities” at the moment, hence they are not engaged and not motivated to come for a retreat no matter how good the retreat is. This will be an important consideration for our next step of community building in our parish pastoral direction.

Learning points (how it can be improved):

Perhaps we should start with a focused retreat or a formation for the leaders of each ministries. In this way, the leaders can then motivate their respective members to participate at the parish level.

Also to consider those not in any ‘structured communities’ and to engage and motivate them to parish activities.

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary

Christmas Fiesta

Practice:

An evangelising event during Christmas Octave. This was done in Church of St Francis Xavier and IHM borrowed the idea

Aim:

- 1) To evangelise non-Catholics and lapsed-Catholics through the celebration of Christmas, which almost everyone anyway does, but we share the real meaning
- 2) To help Catholics take baby-steps in learning how to evangelise

Description:

(Pre-event)

A lot of effort is put in this part, in order to invite neighbours and non-Catholics. All Catholics in the pews are asked to invite at least 1 non or lapsed-Catholic. All adults are given a flyer to pass on. All kids are given a balloon with the invitation printed on it, to pass on to another child. Carolling is done in the Mall to create awareness of the event. These are ways to make evangelisation easy for Catholics.

(Event)

The event is much like a carnival. It has a lot of free food, music and games for kids. The programme on stage is fun, but carries a clear simple message of the true meaning of Christmas, which is Christ. Crucial to the event is the church-tour. Through this tour the guests, who are warmly welcomed, are given an opportunity to see the church-building from the inside. The tour uses the interiors, so as not to get lost in architectural details, but to share

the Gospel through what is seen in a simple way. The guests are also introduced to programmes we organise for non/lapsed-Catholics, like Alpha, RCIA & Landings.

(Post-event)

We refer returning Catholics to Landings. (in other parishes) In IHM 'Alpha' is always organised in between the Christmas Fiesta and the start of RCIA, so that the flow is seamless.

Why is this effective:

Christmas is celebrated by the whole world. Thus to be invited by the Church to celebrate Christmas doesn't feel threatening. The food and carnival help people to want to come to have a good time. The personal invitation by a Catholic friend is effective, because it's personal

Challenges:

To get all Catholics in the pews to actively participate in the pre-event evangelisation. Some Catholics are not interested to come for the event, others come for themselves, instead of bringing someone along.

Learning points:

Continue to find new ways to reach and invite non-Catholics.

Parishioners need to be clearly instructed about evangelisation before and at the event.

Keep the fire burning in organising team, to keep the focus solely on evangelisation.

Lessons from the Trenches

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Leadership Renewal

LEADERSHIP RENEWAL

• Key challenges

- Long-serving leaders
- Functional or silo-mentality
- Inadequate outreach by ministries



LEADERSHIP RENEWAL

• Transform culture

- "Renew" not "replace"
- Create better awareness
- Change mindset

• Equip leaders in

- Faith formation
- Communication
- Interpersonal
- Productivity



picture: toolstop.co.uk

LEADERSHIP RENEWAL

• Objectives

- Succession planning
- Leadership training
- Leadership renewal

• Considerations

- Workshops relevant to church & personal growth
- Corporate & professional trainers
- Love offering (reasonable & sustainable)



picture: dtp.com

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Leadership Renewal

ROADMAP

★ Leadership Engagement and Development Series (LEADS)



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17/28

SUMMARY

- **Leadership renewal**
 - Identify relevant skills for church leaders
 - Provide structured training, grooming & mentorship
 - Engage suitable trainers
- **Transformation & change management**
 - Awareness of best leadership practices
 - Pipeline of leaders for succession
 - Cross-ministry dialogue & cooperation

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Lessons from the Trenches

Church of St Anthony

Preparation for Confirmation

- Takes a Village to raise a Child
 - Process starts from Primary 1.
 - Explain Catechism Program
 - Community Involvement important.
 - Camps & Retreats from P2 to Conf 4
 - Workshops for Youths
 - Catechist, Parents, Church Ministries involved.
 - Workshops for Parents

- Yearly talks for Parents on various subjects.
 - Salvation History, Reconciliation etc...
- Youths attached to Ministry.
 - Youth and/or Adult Ministry
- Ministry to guide and journey with Youths.
 - Leadership Training, Camp Facilitation etc...
- God-Parents Journey with Youth in the final year.
 - Building Bonds

What can we do to be a missionary parish?

COMMUNICATION

- What is in our parish bulletin?
- You are your website
- Can you understand me?

ENGAGING THE PARISHIONERS IN THE PEW

- 'Name Tag' weekend
- Follow up from 'Name Tag' weekend
- What time are you operating on?
- Where are the children?
- Seniors Seniors

EXCITING • ENCOUNTERING • ENGAGING • EVANGELISING

- Focus Focus
- Making Missionary Disciples
- Missionary Prayer Cards
- Leave the Light on
- When we hold on together

COMMUNICATION

What is in our parish bulletin?

Quick check: are there more announcements about parish activities or are there more messages about witnessing and sharing the Good News? If we want to change the culture and shift the parish towards a missionary outlook, the messages in our bulletin have to reflect that. One possible message to consider including: The 'Jesus for Everyone' message sent by ONE with suggestions to go tell others about Jesus.

You are your website...

this is like the 'shop front' or the facade of your parish, who are you attracting? Who do you want to attract? Does it tell visitors something more about who you are as a parish community? More importantly, is our website kept up to date? The last thing we want is to have new people visiting our website and getting the idea that we do not update our webpage at all. This is like walking into a shop that is filled with cobwebs. Pay attention to our website, this is one of the places where first impression is formed.

Can you understand me?

Are we mindful of the language that we are using? Someone who is in the pew may not understand the jargons or the technical words that we use. For example, an announcement is made: 'Neighbourhood rosary in the home of Rosy' Time and venue is given. We assume that everyone knows that it is about having neighbours coming together in someone's home to pray the rosary. However, there may be those in the pew who do not know this even though it seems like common sense. Another example is RCIA. We use this acronym for the ministry that initiates people into the faith. However, many in the pew may have an idea that it has to do with people who want to know the faith but they do not know what RCIA stands for! It is better to use language that is understandable by all and look for opportunity to explain. It is one way to help everyone feel belonged.

ENGAGING THOSE IN THE PEWS

‘Name Tag’ weekend

Designate one weekend as ‘Name Tag’ weekend. Get everyone to wear a name tag at mass and provide for those who did not bring their own. In this way, we can address each person by name when we exchange the sign of peace.

Following up from the ‘name tag’ weekend...

since most of us are creatures of habit, we tend to sit around the same area in church, we will get to know those seated around us by name from the ‘name tag’ weekend exercise. We can then start greeting each other by name. This will create a sense of belonging for the parishioners. When these parishioners come for other parish events, and if others are able to address them by name, it means that ‘I am no longer a stranger in this community’, that others know me and I know them too.

What time are you operating on?

Is it Kairos (quality) time or Chronos (quantity) time? Being Singaporeans, we are operating on quantity time mostly. We will maximise time by multi-tasking and will still lament that we have ‘no time’. In order to take on the mission of the church to make disciples, quality time is needed because all the focus on just tasks will not bring people to Jesus, relationships have to be above tasks - the relationship with God being the most important of all relationships and relationship with others. Building friendship is the work then, the tasks are necessary in the parish but should not be the main focus if we want to be missionary. E.g. wardens’ main focus should be on building relationships with people coming for mass so as to attract more to the faith rather than focusing on how to direct traffic and collect money. The change in mind set will give a different feel to the ministries. So are you operating on Kairos or Chronos time?

Where are the children?

Do you have activities catering to children that are not catechetical classes? When the children are excited and happy to attend the events/activities, the parents are open to bring them to the parish and are motivated to do more with them at home. These are opportunities to engage families together to grow missionary minded families.

Seniors Seniors.

Seniors are to be formed as missionary disciples too. They will be a formidable senior missionary team to reach out to other seniors in the area. Seniors are also prayer powerhouse. Form and guide them so that they will be praying for the parishioners, for all in the parish and also for the mission of the church.

EXCITING • ENCOUNTERING • ENGAGING • EVANGELISEING

Focus, Focus!

Where is our focus? Our end goal should always be making disciples for the Kingdom of God. Thus, in all the events and formation sessions that we do in the parish, we want to remember that ultimately we want to grow parishioners who are in love with Jesus Christ and who are able to witness and talk about this love to others beginning with those in the family, in school and at the workplace.

Missionary Disciples

Have a process in the parishes to train and grow disciples who are concerned about others, willing to listen, who are also ready to speak about their relationships with Jesus Christ to others as an offering of hope and love that attracts.

Mission Prayer Cards

Distribute these cards to the trained and formed disciples so that as they are listening and talking to others, they can also leave behind the prayer card after they have shared their love story and prayer with the person.

Leave the Light on

Start thinking and preparing the parish community to welcome new comers as well as those who are returning. A hospitable and welcoming culture (the light) is essential and necessary because we do not know when the 'guests' will be dropping in, so the community has to be ready to welcome and receive them.

When we hold on together

If we want to focus on building friendships and growing disciples, communities are necessary. What is the state and health of our small communities? Think about how to excite, encounter, engage the small communities so that they will be the places where the seeds of discipleship can grow and take root.

Through the 'missionary' viewfinder

1) Does the programme/event/activity helps the intended audience become excited about the Christian faith?

2) Does the intended programme/event/activity allows participants opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ and experience conversion?

3) Does the programme/event/activity engages participants to grow as disciples who are in turn supported and sustained by the whole community?

4) Does the programme/event/activity forms participants to bring the light of the Gospel to transform society, thus fulfilling the evangelising mission fo the church?