

February 2019 PNCC Future Direction: The Disciple: Teaching by Example

As we begin this second month of Discipleship: 2019 we focus on teaching by example. We, as disciples of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, continue to learn from His example in our reading and hearing of the Sacred Scriptures. How Jesus lived. What He taught. As His disciples today we need to teach others by example – teach them about the one that teaches us. It is not by forcing or guilting someone into following Christ but rather by the way we chose to live – showing Jesus living in and through us – in a nutshell being Jesus to others!

During this month our Holy Church is calling us to take a look at our lives and find a way we can role model the life of Christian discipleship – being Jesus to others. A great way to do this is living the Virtues. Living a virtuous life, we know is living in a good and righteous way. The seven Heavenly Virtues are Faith, Hope, Charity Fortitude, Justice, Temperance and Prudence. How do we live these virtues on a daily basis? Which can we enhance during this month and teach others by our example – just as Jesus teaches us by His example?

What we do matters. What we say matters. What we post matters. What are we saying about ourselves in the way we choose to live? Is Discipleship a priority – can others see Jesus in us in what we do, in what we say, in what we post?

Remember St. Paul's words to the Colossians (3:12-14): *As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

This month it is suggested that we organize and attend some type of informal, faith-based discussion gathering for adults within our parish or cluster of parishes. This idea (which originated from one of the Synod discussion groups) is to use some form of "contemporary ministry" to accomplish the goal of "Increased spirituality through a welcoming church family that, through worship of God, will bring us closer together."

Some suggestions for what this setting might be are: Soup, Sandwich, and Sermon; Wine and Spirits; Potluck Dinner and Discussion; Book Club and Bubbly....and you get the idea.

As some may shy away from either organizing or attending something like this – something that might take us out of our usual comfort zone, below are some suggestions to consider and will hopefully help you to say YES to trying to hold a gathering as we are all called to Discipleship: 2019:

1. Prevent the thought of trying something new from overwhelming you or others in your parish by focusing on just doing this ONCE to begin with. Don't worry about building out a whole schedule for these gatherings. Just plan the first one and then see what happens. Build from there.
2. TRY IT one time. To try just once should be the universal theme whenever we are presented with something different or new. How many times have we attempted to get a child to try a new food, or convinced our spouse to try a new restaurant? This is no different. No one is asking for a lifetime commitment of your Friday evenings here...just one.
3. Construct a setting that can help people to visualize that this will be something different and not the same old same old, we've tried this before, been there done that, church thing. If you can, create a casual setting in your church hall using comfortable chairs, accent tables, an area rug, plants and flowers or whatever you have available, to coincide with when you introduce the idea of this gathering. Let people see that the setting will be something different and more relaxed.
4. Gather input from the adults in your parish about when to have this gathering and what the format might be. Introduce a short survey one Sunday and ask the adults to complete the anonymous survey during



coffee hour. Use this information to help determine the best date/time for your first event, asking just a few simple questions, such as:

- Will you attend the Wine and Spirits, faith-based discussion gathering? Y/N
 - If yes, which of the following dates/times work best for you? Give two to three specific options and then include an “other” option and let them fill in the blank.
 - If you will not attend, can you provide some insight as to why not? For example, work schedule, no transportation, on vacation.
 - Do you have any suggestions for this type of gathering?
5. If childcare may be an issue in getting some of the adults in your parish to commit to even one time, consider having the kids come along and they can watch a movie together in another room. Naturally this is all dependent upon the age of the children and what resources are available, but the message here is to try and find a solution that will work for everyone for this one time.
 6. Once a date and time is finalized, continue to promote this event. Email the parishioners with friendly reminders as the event approaches. Send out a postcard reminder such as a “Save the Date” kind of thing. Make a big deal about this gathering, reminding people how important their participation is.
 7. If you are from one of our smaller parishes, try coordinating something with nearby PNCC parishes or at a Seniorate level if that works.

Reach out to the Future Direction sub-committee if you have questions or need more information on how to organize an informal, faith-based discussion. Send your email to futuredirection@pncc.org

As for the topic it had been suggested at Holy Synod to refresh our faith – perhaps a teaching or section from our Catechism or a Gospel passage and how this relates to our living as disciples each and every day of our lives to get the discussion started.

We would also like to bring to your attention a couple of items happening across our Church.

The PNCC 19th Annual National Mission and Evangelism Workshop will be held March 29-31, 2019. Here is the link for additional information:

We are called to do various service projects – many are concluding the Souper Bowl of Caring this week and another one for your consideration helps our YMS of R. On July 4, 2019, Spojnia Farm properties will be celebrating its 90th anniversary. To continue the tradition the United Y is focusing its efforts to give the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center the upgrades it needs for the youth of our church and the young at heart. Our faithful and parishes are being asked to donate to the “90 for 90” campaign in celebration of the 90th anniversary of Spojnia Farm. Thousands of people have stayed at Spojnia Farm or the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center in the last 90 years – an important part of our history.

Please keep these church-wide undertakings in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.

Remember as our Lord taught us by His example, may we, as His disciple today, teach others by the way that we live our lives – showing them Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*

DISCIPLESHIP
2019 PNCC

