

PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUPS

to ZONE HUBS

7. Missionary Discipleship

Some steps for discernment (theological reflection and prayer) to nurture collaborative social justice action:

*And then He told them, "Go into all the world
and preach the Good News to everyone"*

- Mark 16: 15

Step 1. Be Good News Messengers:

- Pope Francis stated: "Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she bears witness to God's love. Be missionaries of God's tenderness".
- "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free". - Luke 4: 18
- 'The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ'. – Ephesians 4: 11-12
- "Ministry is, first of all, receiving God's blessing from those to whom we minister. What is this blessing? It is a glimpse of the face of God".
- Henri Nouwen (Here and Now)
- "A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history". – Mahatma Gandhi

*'This is the day which the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it'*

- Psalm 118: 24

Step 2. Journey of Accompaniment:

- Pope Francis stated that *“the Church is a community of Christ’s disciples...Missionary discipleship is a call from God for today’s busy and complicated world – a ‘constant setting out’ with Jesus in order to know how and where the Master lives”*.
- *“Each of us is responsible for his or her neighbour: we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they live”*. – Pope Francis (World Migrant Day 2016)
- *‘Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go’*. – Joshua 1: 9
- *“The Beatitudes are in some sense the Christian’s identity card. They identify us as followers of Jesus. We are called to be blessed, to be followers of Jesus; to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus. Thus we ought to be able to recognise and respond to new situations with fresh spiritual energy”*.
- Pope Francis (2016)
- *“When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts”*.
- Dalai Lama

*‘Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me.
Your rod and Your staff protect and comfort me’*

– Psalm 23: 4

Step 3. The Light of the World:

- *Jesus spoke to them saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life”*.
- John 8: 12
- *‘Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path’*.
- Psalm 119: 105
- *“Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason”*. – Pope Francis

- *“Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light”.*
 - Helen Keller

- *‘This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all’.*
 - 1 John 1: 5

‘For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.

Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found

in all that is good and right and true’

Ephesians 4: 8 – 9

Step 4. The Word Became Flesh:

- *‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God’.*
 - John 1: 1

- *‘And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth’.* – John 1: 14

- *“I am the Alpha and the Omega” says the Lord God, who is and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.* – Revelation 1: 8

- *‘Now faith is the same assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith, our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible’.* – Hebrews 11: 1-3

- *“Our worship becomes pleasing to God when we devote ourselves to living generously, and allow God’s gift, granted in prayer, to be shown in our concern for our brothers and sisters”.* – Pope Francis (Gaudete et Exsultate: On the call to Holiness in today’s world, 2018, # 104)

Jesus said to him: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me”

– John 14: 6

Step 5. A Time to Every Purpose Under Heaven:

- *He said therefore, 'What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it?' It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree and the birds of the air made nests in its branches".*
– Luke 13: 18-19
- *"Contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God's grace within our hearts, and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves".*
- Pope Francis (Laudato Si', 2015, # 234)
- *"I need to listen well so that I hear what is not said".* – Thuli Madonsela
- *"The time is always right to do what is right".* – Martin Luther King
- *"Looking back, I have a strong belief that when the Lord calls, He follows up with what is needed for the mission".*
– Aux. Bishop of Perth, Bishop Sproxton (Dec. 2017)

*'To everything there is a season and a time
to every purpose under heaven'*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1

Step 6. Nurture Your Spirit and Soul:

- Take the time to commune with nature – with all of the wonders of creation. As Pope Francis stated in Laudato Si' (2015, # 223): *"The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things".*
- *To set our hearts on the Kingdom therefore means to make the life of the Spirit within and among us, the centre of all we think, say or do".*
- Henri Nouwen (Making all things new)
- *'As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience'. - Collosians 3: 12*
- *'Come to Me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest'. – Matthew 11: 28*

- Pope Benedict XVI stated: *“Our hearts and minds are yearning for a vision of life where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth, and where identity is found in respectful communion; this is the work of the Holy Spirit! This is the hope held by the Gospel of Jesus Christ”.*

‘I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in Him. Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit’

- **Romans 15: 13**

Step 7. Be more:

- *“Aspire not to have more, but to be more”.* – Oscar Romero
- *‘Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ’.*
- Philippians 1: 27
- *“My choices, including those related to the day-to-day aspects of my life, like the use of a modest car, are related to a spiritual discernment that responds to a need that arises from looking at things, at people and from reading the ‘signs of the times’.*
Discernment in the Lord guides me in my way of governing”. – Pope Francis
- *“God does not look at the action but at the spirit motivating it; and He will judge and reward us accordingly”.* – Catherine McAuley (Retreat Instructions, p 82)
- *“I encourage you then, my brothers (and sisters), to confront the challenging issues of our time. Ever present within each of them is life as gift and responsibility. The future of freedom and dignity of our societies depends on how we face these challenges”.*
– Pope Francis

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Psalm 46: 10