



ARCHDIOCESE  
of BALTIMORE

# BE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

## EMAIL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020



### NOMINATION PERIOD OPEN FOR 2020 COHORT

*Have you been trying to move your parish from maintenance to mission?*

*Would you like to share your wisdom and struggles with a cohort of others on the path to parish missionary discipleship?*

*Could you use some help focusing your energies and undertaking a planning process?*

*If so, you may be ready to nominate your pastorate for the 2020 cohort of pastorates activated for planning this fall.*

*[Click here](#) to go to the nomination form, or find it in the [Lastest News](#) section of [BeMissionaryDisciples.org](#).*



### THE PASTORATE PLANNING EXPERIENCE - CASTING INTO NEW WATERS

*Jesus said to them, 'Children, have you caught anything to eat?' They answered him, 'No.' So he said to them, 'Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.' So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish." (John 21:5-6)*

How many times have we been frustrated by the empty nets we pull up from what have always seemed good ways of spreading the Gospel? What is holding us back from going outside our comfort zone to evangelize and make disciples in new ways? Perhaps it is fear of failure or push back, lack of energy, or maybe just the need for inspiration? Jesus is calling us to be "fishers of men" in new ways, and the rewards are worth it!

**Turn to the last page** to read the words of some of those who have been open to the call to fish in new waters by engaging in intentional planning for missionary discipleship. Wouldn't you like to be able to say some of the same things?



We are  
Divine Mercy  
Parish



Our Mission:  
To make God's  
mercy present  
to all by  
welcoming,  
loving, and  
leading.

## BEARING FRUIT IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Many of the pastorates in the pilot (2017) and Phase 1A (2018) cohorts have continued to plan and implement their strategies for missionary discipleship, even during these times of crisis.

Pastorates are using their strategic plans to prioritize their activities and allocate their resources in ways that focus on growing and making disciples. The crisis has been a catalyst for pastorates to jump into their online presence, create virtual small faith communities, and update the contact information of their parishioners.

More information on previous cohort pastorates can be found on the Be Missionary Disciples website: [www.BeMissionaryDisciples.org](http://www.BeMissionaryDisciples.org). Also, check the [Latest News](#) section for links to some of the plans completed so far.

## THE 2019 COHORT: PERSEVERANCE PAYS OFF

Every cohort so far has been unique, but the 2019 Cohort has been special. They have persevered and shown tremendous resilience in forging ahead with the essential work of planning for missionary discipleship.

Head to the Be Missionary Disciples website to [read about two pastorates' experiences](#) of planning during a pandemic, the ways in which the cohort's pastors and associate pastors came together to support each other, and the online learning opportunity that pastorate teams were given to hear about the work of evangelizing parishes around the Archdiocese (and beyond).

# NOT READY TO BE ACTIVATED?

TRY ONE OF THESE IDEAS THIS YEAR!

Not every pastorate is ready to dive into an intentional planning effort focused on missionary discipleship. But you can still make small and consistent progress towards getting there right now.

Consider doing at least one of these things in the next year:

1. Read a book on parish renewal and discuss it with your staff and leadership.
2. View the [free course on Effective Communications](#) from Revive Parish. Then take advantage of the Archdiocese's special subscription rates to access all of the Revive Parish courses, especially, Parish Renewal, Evangelization, Transformational Preaching, and Missionary Discipleship.
3. Go through the [Core Mission Priorities Workbook](#) with your team to start putting ideas for missionary transformation on paper.
4. Build a strong and healthy team that is mission-focused. Start by [praying together](#) every day and [sharing your faith journey](#). Discover each other's strengths and how best to lead and minister out of them.

5. Begin [envisioning](#) with your team what a pastorate full of missionary disciples could look like in action.

For more information on these and other options for formation around missionary discipleship, [click here](#).

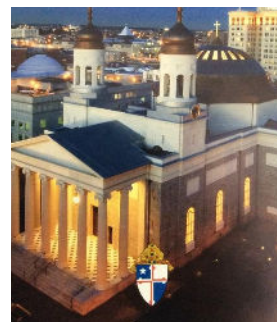
# thanks + praise

FROM PASTORS AND TEAMS

"Know that this group has fed me, opened my eyes to the different 'needs' of [our pastorate] and how our different intimate relationships with our God entwine."

"...It has been a wonderful experience to have all of us sharing our experiences, our frustrations, our concerns, and our joys as we invite and encourage our parishioners to become Missionary Disciples."

"Thank you for all the work you put into leading and guiding our planning effort. Truly, you have a gift for dealing with copious amounts of information as well as with odd assortments of people! Thank you for your friendship and for using your gifts to ease us through [this] process"



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