



## VIDEO 1

*What is the situation we find ourselves in right now?*

### Fill in the blank

1. In the last \_\_\_\_\_ years, Mass attendance in the Archdiocese of Omaha has declined by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In the next 10 years, we will see a \_\_\_\_\_ decrease in the number of active archdiocesan priests.
3. There will be a \_\_\_\_\_ population increase in the Omaha metro area and a significant decrease in the rest of the archdiocese (with the exceptions of Norfolk, Columbus, Schuyler, and South Sioux City).
4. These numbers indicate a dramatic \_\_\_\_\_ change.

### Questions to ponder

1. Think about how many people are in your extended family. How many would be left if 1/3 or 33% of them went missing in the last 10 years? Or think about yourself, your spouse and one child, or yourself and two friends. How would it affect you if one of those three people stopped attending mass?



You



Your spouse or  
your friend



Your child or  
your friend

2. In the next 10 years, we will see a 25% decrease in the number of active archdiocesan priests. There are currently 111 priests. How many do we project there will be in 2032?

3. We have enough parishes to fit the number of people who were coming to Mass ten years ago. Remember, 10 years ago there were 33% more people attending Mass than there are today. To visualize this, cross out the people going into 3 of the church buildings below.



Even though our churches aren't empty, what does this say about the number of facilities we are currently working to maintain?

4. God has a plan for us in this time. How does that promise give you hope in the midst of our current situation?



## VIDEO 2

*How do we respond to this situation?*

### **Fill in the blank**

Our response to this moment in time has *three key parts*:

1. Archbishop and his pastors are calling together the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Archdioceses to come together and \_\_\_\_\_ in a collaborative planning process to try and position ourselves for a \_\_\_\_\_ future.
2. All this effort is directed toward one mission, the mission of Jesus Christ. The Pastoral Vision of the Archdiocese of Omaha articulates Jesus' mission as: "**One Church: encountering Jesus, equipping disciples, \_\_\_\_\_ mercy**". To the extent we seek out this vision and align for mission, we are convinced we will see flourishing and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In pursuit of this mission, we have one common goal named \_\_\_\_\_. This goal is: "**In the next several years, every parish in the Archdiocese of Omaha will become a \_\_\_\_\_ community.**" By that we mean, we want to see flourishing parishes that tend to the people who are there and not there.

### **Discussion questions:**

1. Fr. Hastings says our Pastoral Vision is a local expression of the mission of Jesus. In your own words, what is the mission of Jesus? (Hint: see Matthew 28:18-20)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What inspires you about the Pastoral Vision and the Big Goal?

Please read the following and answer the question below:

### WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

The mission of the Church is “to proclaim Christ to all peoples”<sup>1</sup>. In other words, the Church exists to evangelize<sup>2</sup>. This mission is not identical to the pastoral care of the faithful but encompasses and surpasses it. The Church exists not only to dispense the sacraments and gather those who are already disciples, but also to attract and liberate all those “who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death” (Lk. 1:79).

This task is not only for a select few, but through our common baptism, every member of the Church is called to play an active role in the mission of evangelization, because “it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn.”<sup>3</sup>

Practically, there are two primary ways<sup>4</sup> that every Catholic is called to proclaim Christ:

1. By the *witness* of a holy life that arouses curiosity in other people about Jesus and the Church
2. By using *words* to explicitly name Jesus as the source of our faith, hope, and love

For lay people, the context in which this mission is meant to be lived is the secular world – in the midst of daily life in the family, workplace, neighborhood, and community.<sup>5</sup>

Because many Catholics have not received formation to engage in the mission to proclaim Christ, there is a great need to equip the laity to evangelize in the ordinary circumstances of their lives.

### WHAT IS A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY?

A missional community is an outward-looking group of disciples, under the care of a pastor, sent by Jesus to make disciples (Mt 28:18). A missional community resists attitudes of complacency, consumerism, and self-preservation, which prioritize comfort ahead of the obligation to proclaim Christ.

Missional communities have certain identifiable characteristics:

1. Collaborative Leadership – A way of exercising authority in which the pastors invite and equip a certain portion of the Christian faithful to use their gifts in service of leadership.
2. Clear Path of Discipleship – A simple, step-by-step strategy for a parish to make disciples and lead people toward full maturity in Christ.
3. Culture of Generosity – A way of Christian living where we come to know that all we have is a gift from God and are invited to return those gifts with love to our Lord, our parish, and our community.

**Question:** How does it make you feel that Jesus is calling your parish to become a missional community?

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<sup>1</sup> Mission of the Redeemer, Pope John Paul II, 3

<sup>2</sup> Evangelization in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI, 14

<sup>3</sup> Evangelization in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI, 24

<sup>4</sup> Evangelization in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI, 21-22

<sup>5</sup> Light of the Nations, Second Vatican Council, 31



## VIDEO 3

*How will we know we've been successful?*

### Fill in the blank

Journey of Faith is proposing three things:

1. A significant \_\_\_\_\_ change in the next few years.
2. A continued \_\_\_\_\_ to our Pastoral Vision and the Big Goal.
3. The involvement of every \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Archdiocese toward missional alignment.

Going forward we will ask parishes to collaborate with one another as families that are deeply characterized by the desire for \_\_\_\_\_ that are at the service of Jesus Christ.

The qualities of a missional community are:

1. The members will want to bring in other members; they will be \_\_\_\_\_ communities.
2. I know the Lord and can't help but \_\_\_\_\_ people about the Lord and his abundance.
3. The community will be attractive to others, and people will \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A desire for others to be drawn \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.

### Discussion questions:

1. The Holy Spirit is at work in our parishes right now. Where have you seen these characteristics already in your parish?

2. Where do you desire the Holy Spirit to provide a greater abundance of grace in your parish?

3. Acts 2:42-47 provides a concrete example of what flourishing looked like in the early church. Slowly read through the passage below and notice what stands out to you.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.