

# Lay Formation and Evangelization

## Presentations and Workshops



Part of the mandate of the Office of Lay Formation and Evangelization is to provide support to parishes and deaneries in their own evangelization efforts and help to re-enforce the Spiritual and Catechetical foundations parishes need to be successful. To this end I would like to offer my services in the following areas of Evangelization, Spiritual Formation, and Catechetics.

You should also feel free to contact me regarding other specific needs of your parish. We can look together at planning a workshop or event for your parish, Pastoral Councils, Faith Formation or Catechetical teams or other appropriate parish groups that might suit your specific situation.

**Prayer workshop** – An introduction to two traditional prayer practices, Lectio Divina and the Ignatian Examen that can not only be incorporated into our personal lives but would also be of great value when used in a Pastoral Council setting. You will see how these two practices can move your PPC beyond what is often a brief opening prayer that is shared before the 'real work' of the night begins and instead allow an initial time of prayer and faith sharing to form the lens through which the rest of your time together is focused.

**Discernment Workshop** - This workshop guides participants through the basic principles of Ignatian discernment. A lack or good discernment often leads to a spiritual and emotional 'dryness' in one's personal life and ministry. On the other hand, a well discerned choice can bring a new and vibrant life to one's ministry making our service to Christ and His Church a source of joy for ourselves and others! In this 3-4 hour workshop, we will help to distinguish first what discernment is and is not, hone heart, mind and soul to be more intentionally aware of God's activity, understand it, and make spiritually informed choices, and finally provide a concrete approach to both individual and group discernment.

**Creating a Culture of Christian Hospitality** - This 3 hour workshop examines the essentials of Christian hospitality and the place of hospitality within the over-arching culture of a parish. We look at the role of hospitality within the Christian mission of sharing the good news of salvation, identify the hunger for Christian hospitality within the human heart, and look at practical ways parishes can work across parish groups and ministries to foster a culture of Christian Hospitality.

**The Amazing Parish Conference** - Utilizing videos from the first Amazing parish Conference held in Denver, Co in August of 2014 as well as reflection and strategic planning materials provided by the conference organizers, this workshop looks at 7 key areas of parish life and helps pastoral teams develop a strategy for assessing where they are currently in each area and where they would like to go. This workshop contains 5 segments of 45mins each with 15-20mins of small group reflection, evaluation and planning in between. The original conference took place over the course of two days. This scaled down version could be done over the course of a day (9-noon, noon-4, Mass-supper, Conclusion by 8pm) or split between two days or even two different (though I would recommend consecutive) weekends.

**Forming Intentional Disciples** - Using Sherry Weddell's book "Forming Intentional Disciples" as a guide, this workshop walks through the challenges faced by the Church today and looks at ways in which we might foster and maintain intentional discipleship in parishes. An introduction to this could be done in a 3-4hr session.

**The Church and the New Evangelization** - Looking at what the New Evangelization is and is not, why it is important to the Church today and how to incorporate the principles and practices of the New Evangelization in the life of the parish. This could be done in a brief 1-2hr presentation or take the form of a 3-4hr workshop.

**The Essentials of Adult Faith Formation** - Combining some of the principles discussed at the Amazing parish Conference with my own 14 years of Adult faith formation in the parish this 3hr workshop looks at the underlying principles of Adult faith formation as well as how to put together a formation team, promote formation events in the parish and maintain momentum in your formation programs from year to year.

**Family and Intergenerational Faith Formation** - Looking at some of the basic principles of family and intergeneration catechesis, why this approach to sacramental preparation and on-going family formation makes sense and providing some easy starting points for a parish. This could be done in a 2-3hr time frame and/or combined with the "Essentials of Adult Formation" for a more integrated type of full-day workshop.

**Formation Team Training** - This 3-4hour training workshop helps prepare your adult formation team to take on the specific roles needed for a program to run smoothly as well as providing training in the facilitation of large and small discussion groups.

**The Bible In A Day** - This workshop exposes participants to the central narrative story of our faith that is both informative and personally inspiring. Participants are guided through the story of salvation history in such a way as to see how and where this story intersects with their own lives. Participants leave with the tools and the confidence needed to make regular reading of the bible easy to incorporate into their daily spiritual practice. Based off of the popular Quick Journey through the Bible series by Ascension Press, this workshop takes a formerly 8 week introduction to the Bible and condenses it into a 6-8hr single-day event.

**The Wedding Feast of the Lamb: Unlocking the secrets of the Book of Revelation and the Mass** - This is a 3-4hr workshop that is based on work I have done both in the Lay Formation program and in the parish that opens up the final book of our scriptures showing the message of hope and renewal that it contains as well as its intimate - but often over looked - connection with the Mass.

Peace and God Bless,

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