



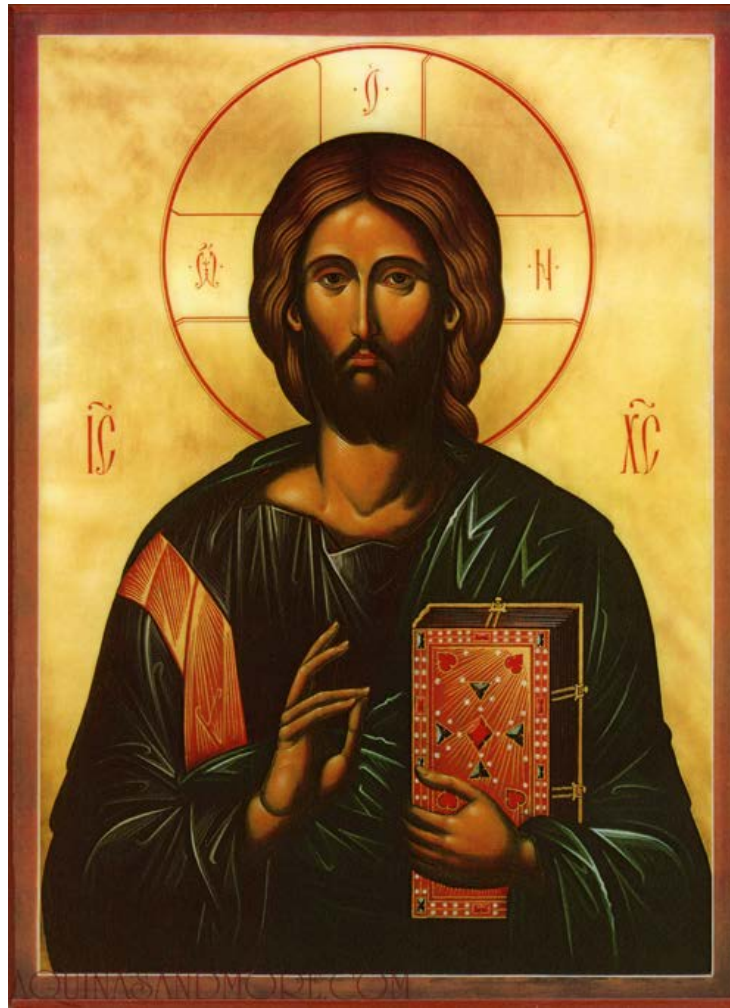
Making Disciples

Evangelization Summit

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The Purpose of the Church

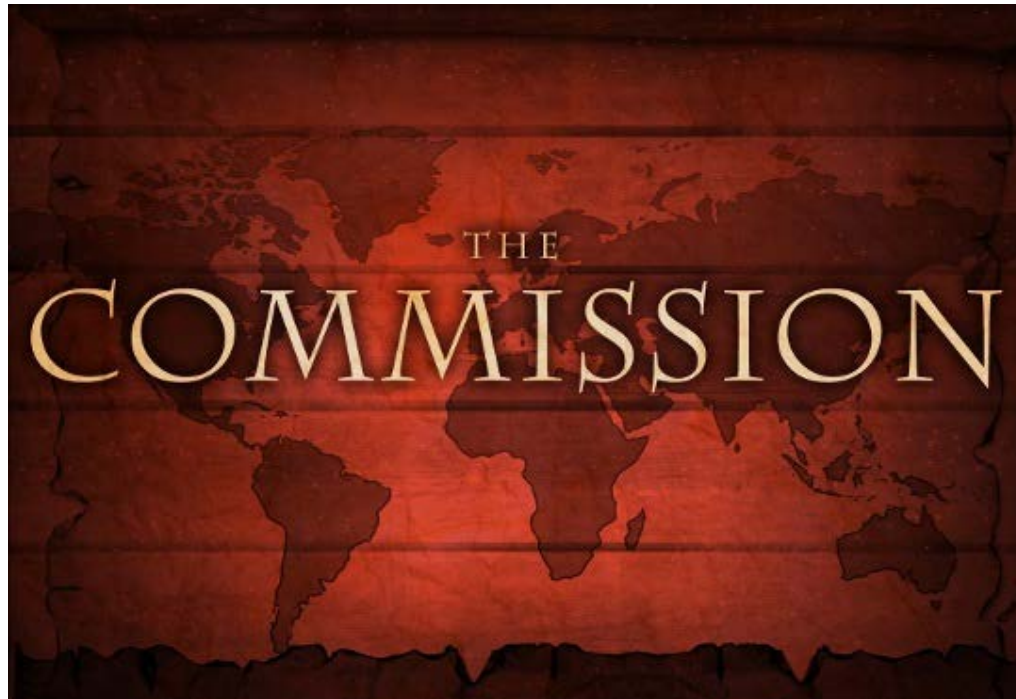
- To offer people salvation in Jesus Christ



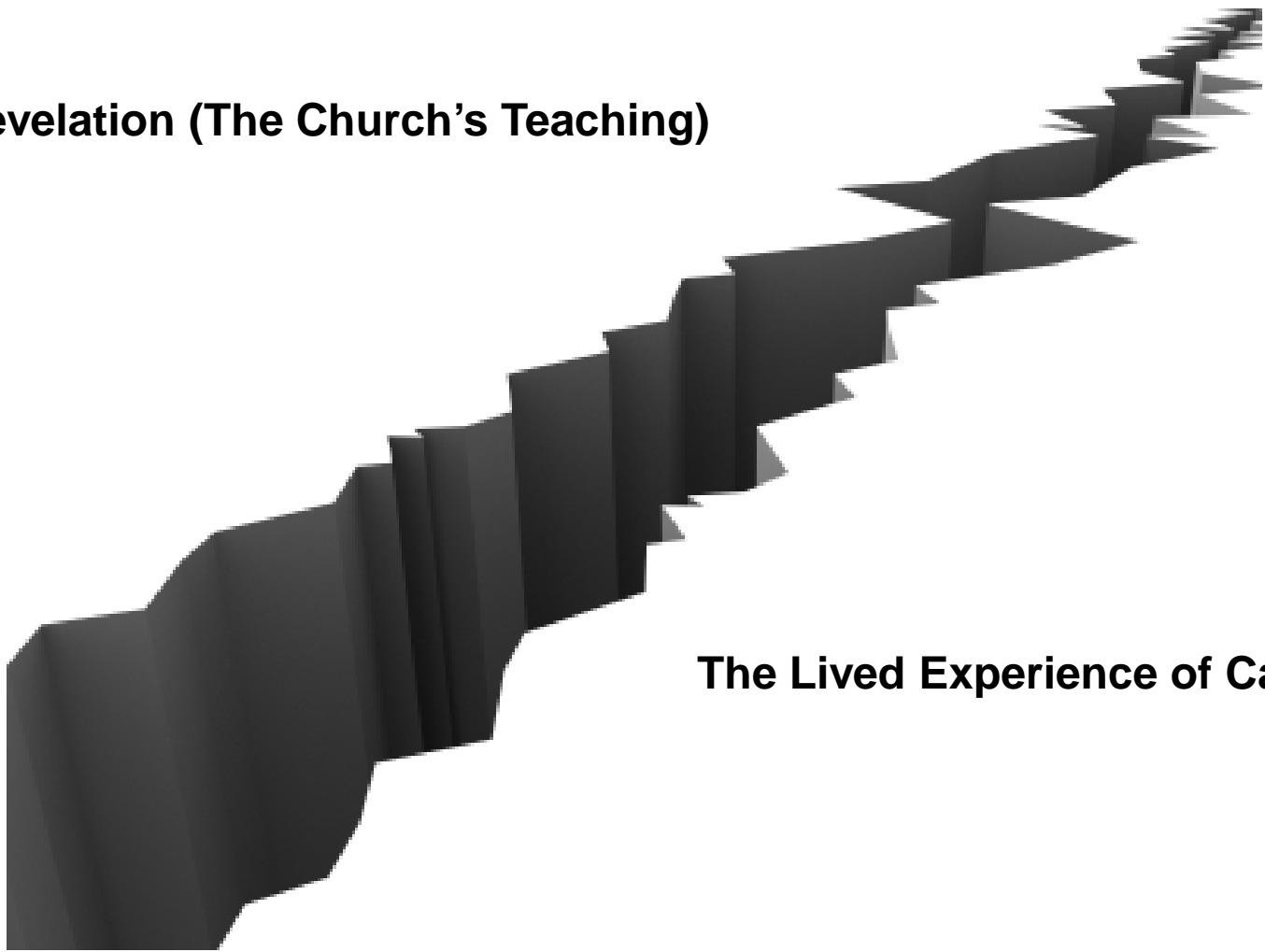
The Purpose of the Church

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them all I have commanded you to.”

--Matthew 16:16-19



Revelation (The Church's Teaching)



The Lived Experience of Catholics

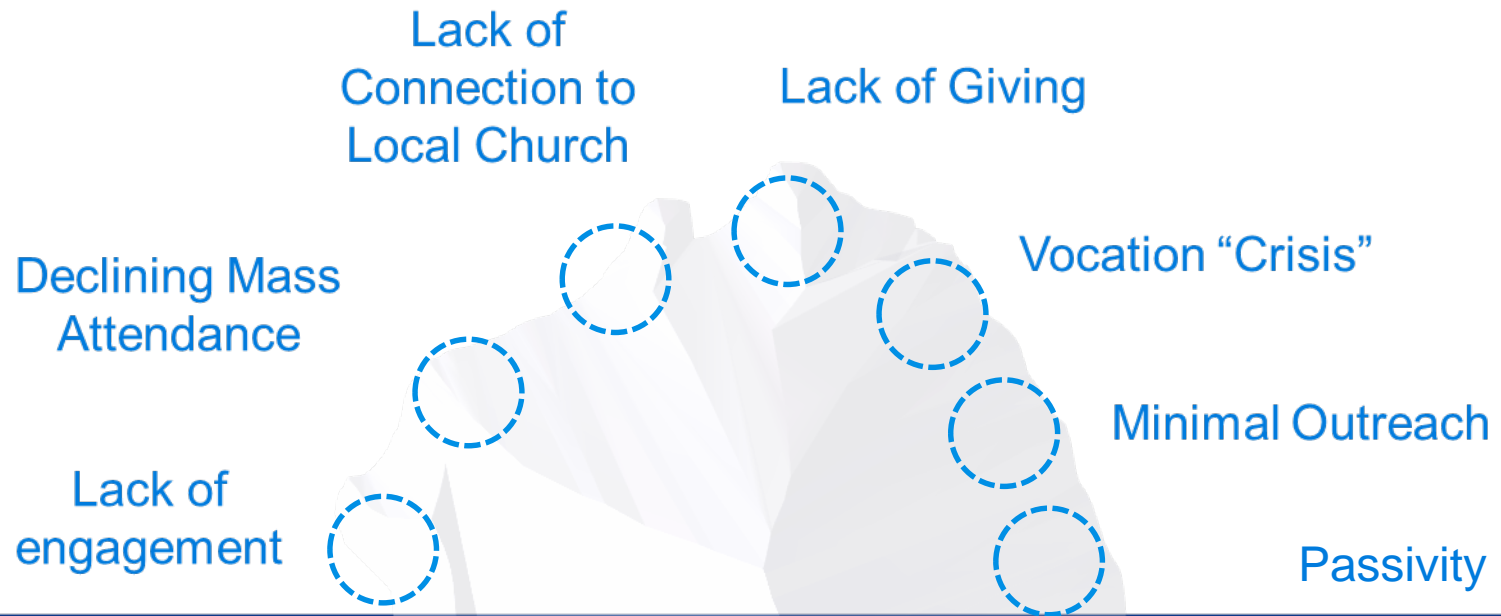
There is a chasm between the Church's theology . . . And the lived, spiritual experience of the majority of our people –Sherry Weddell

Crisis Response

Our pastoral response to this crisis has not borne sustainable fruit because we have largely been reacting to problematic symptoms rather than the core issue.

Our diagnosis has not gone deep enough!





Lack of Discipleship

The Heart of the Problem

“The heart of the Church involves a set of interlocking relationships of believers with Christ and with each other.”

--Fr. Lou Cameli, *A Practical Ecclesiology for Renew My Church*

The Heart of the Problem

Many Catholics are “still without any explicit personal attachment to Jesus Christ; they only have the capacity to believe placed within them by Baptism and the presence of the Holy Spirit.”

--St. John Paul II, *Catechesis in Our Times*, 19

The Heart of the Problem

For a variety of cultural and historical reasons, parish life in the United States generally lacks:

- An experience of discipleship (and personal relationship with Christ) as normative
- A sense of personal and corporate responsibility for the Church's mission of evangelization
 - Evangelization is seen as the responsibility of the professional ministerial segment of the Church, or worse, as something protestant and not belonging to the Catholic Church
- An orientation that is fundamentally outward-focused, toward the world

The Heart of the Problem

- An appreciation for the central role that spiritual gifts play in the discernment of personal vocation and the fulfillment of the Church's mission (AA, 3)



Intentional Discipleship

- Definition:

“An ‘intentional disciple’ is one who has made a PERSONAL ACT of faith and is actively in pursuit of wanting to know better the Jesus to whom he has entrusted himself.

The "switch" from passive to active has occurred, the moral life proposed by the church is no longer burdensome, and is supported by a conscious sacramental life.”

--Carole Browne, PhD

Intentional Discipleship

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples

John 16:8



Practical Fruits of Discipleship

- Giving Increases

Weekly collection increased by an avg. of \$1500 at Queen of the Rosary Parish

- Mass Attendance Increases

100+ more people attending weekend mass between 2014-2015 AT Queen of the Rosary

- Parish Registration Increases

Added on average 20 new families every 6 months at QR

- Sacramental Participation Increases

Added a second time for confessions on Wednesday evening

Increase in number of baptisms and weddings

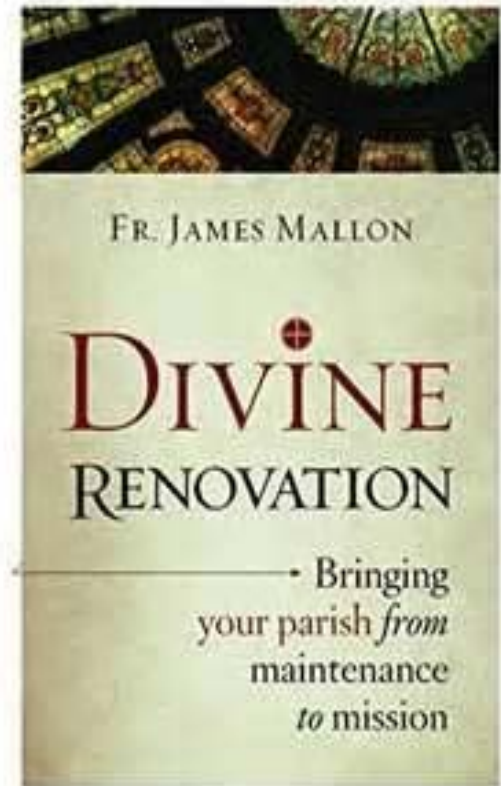
- Finding “Volunteers” Becomes Easier

- Parish Programs Fill Up

Moving From Maintenance to Mission

“This necessary change, of course, is one of culture. This cultural change means a deep, deep change. It means changing what we consider to be normative for the Christian life. It means a total conversion of our lived values, not merely the stated ones. Compared to this change, all others, including closing churches, are merely cosmetic.”

--Fr. James Mallon, *Divine Renovation*



Moving From Maintenance to Mission

Mission is not simply a more intensive version of maintenance, like shifting a gear on a bicycle so as to produce more speed. Rather, mission has a fundamentally different focus than maintenance--an end toward which all the activity of maintenance serves.

Embracing the Lifecycle of Discipleship

Making Disciples

- Journeying with people through pre-discipleship thresholds
- Fostering encounters with Christ that provide explicit opportunities to draw closer to Him (conversion) Mark 3:13-14

Maturing Disciples

- Rooting new disciples in the disciplines of following Christ , i.e. daily prayer, sacramental life, scripture reading, fellowship, ecclesial living, service to the world

Missioning Disciples

- Providing opportunities to discern one's vocation in the midst of the community: parochial and civic.
- Connecting the spiritual gifts of individuals to areas of work and service in the world. Equipping disciples to share Christ in word and deed in a way that bears fruit.

Bridging the Gap

Between life in Christ and the lived experience of our people requires:

- A pastoral vision and strategy that
 - Begins with the end in mind—Missionary Discipleship
 - Takes note of where people are actually at
 - Connects people with Christ
 - Provides personal nurture, nourishment, accompaniment, and formation along the path to Missionary Discipleship
 - Shifts away from a primary focus on the formation of children and embraces a model of adult-focused formation

Bridging the Gap

Between life in Christ and the lived experience of our people requires:

- A healthy and flexible organization that
 - Embraces the best of organizational management and leadership principles
 - Holds its members accountable
 - Embraces dynamic and constructive conflict
 - Believes in the Vision
 - Consists of Disciples
 - Because of the **Nemo Principle**
 - Nemo dat quod non habet

Bridging the Gap

Between life in Christ and the lived experience of our people requires:

- A wide and deep bench of missionary disciples who

Are not limited to staff members and key volunteers

Know how to accompany others and lead them to Christ

Have discerned their own charisms (spiritual gifts) and know how God has supernaturally gifted them to be Christ to others

Often spend time outside of the parish

Pastoral Strategy (Envision)

A pastoral strategy is more than just a Mission Statement:

It's a “game plan” that sees how the entire life of the parish can function as a “game plan” to create a path (with multiple entry points) that leads to missionary discipleship

It stamps out silos wherever they occur and understands that a culture of discipleship embraces every aspect of community life.

It utilizes an understanding of the key thresholds of the spiritual journey and has something for people at each threshold

Necessary Conceptual Framework



Staff & Ministerial Leadership Formation

Liturgical & Volunteer Formation

Adult Education/Formation

Outreach

Administrative/
Business Management

Pastoral Planning

Catechesis

Communication

Youth ministry



THE GAME PLAN

Organizational Health(Empower)

Katie will talk about this important step more at the end of our day.

Community of Disciples (Equip)

Developing a community of missionary disciples means recognizing:

We can not do it all—whether as pastor or staff members or key volunteers

Adult lay men and women will be the primary “doers” of the mission—especially to the world outside the boundaries of the parish campus

It utilizes an understanding of the key thresholds of the spiritual journey and has something for people at each threshold



Making Disciples

Evangelization Process & Thresholds:

Practical Application

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What is Evangelization?

- Much of our difficulty in actually evangelizing stems from confusion about what evangelization is!



What is Evangelization?

- Evangelization is not:

Spiritual Telemarketing

Judging Others

Protestant

About Forcing Others to Make a Choice

What is Evangelization?

The Church talks about evangelization in two major ways:

The Act of Evangelization

The Process of Evangelization

The Act of Evangelization?

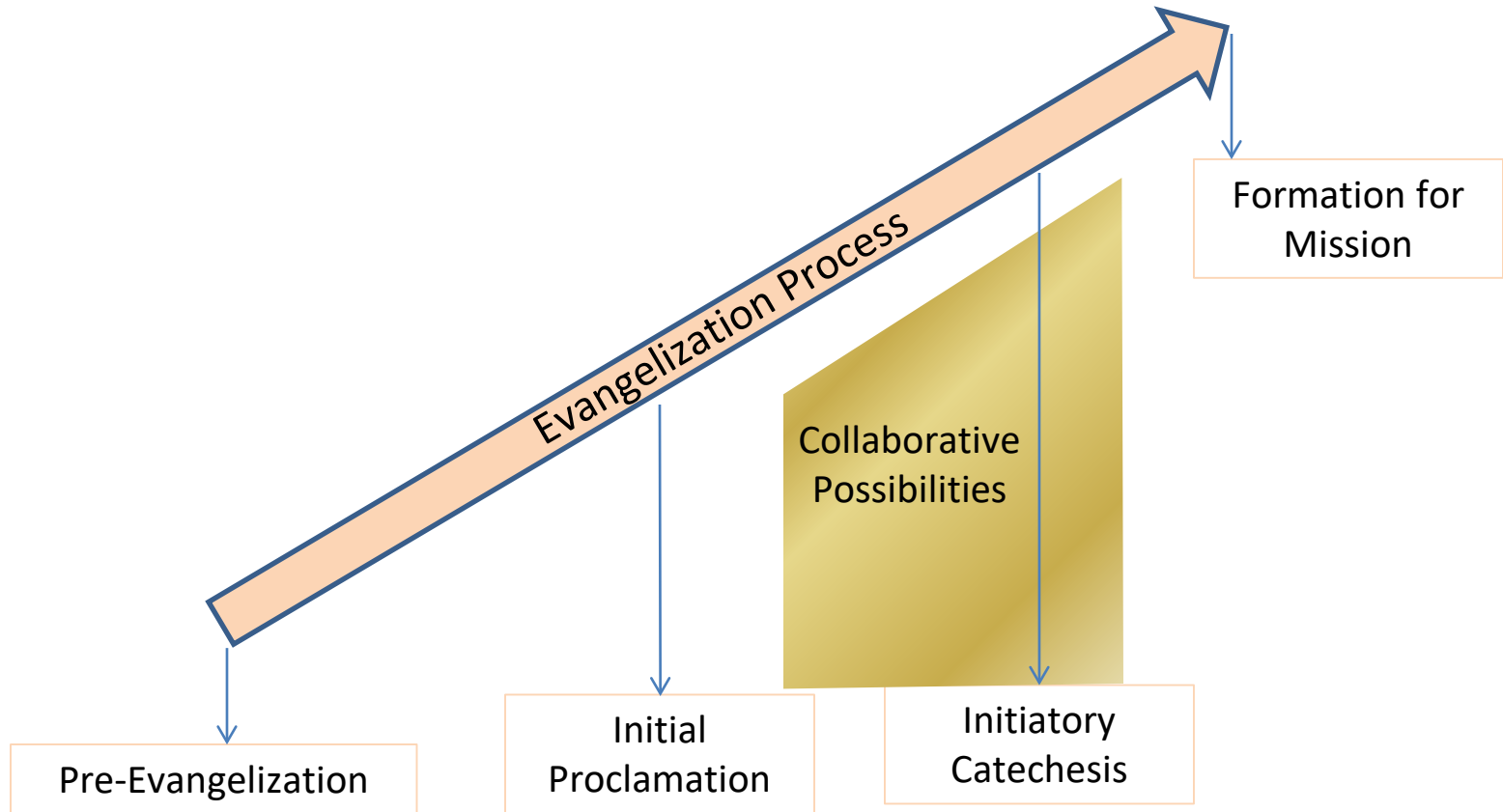
- Proclaiming the Good News in word and deed so that others:

encounter Jesus Christ

are overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God

commit their lives to following Him as disciples!

The Pedagogy of Evangelization



Thresholds of Conversion

Pre-Discipleship

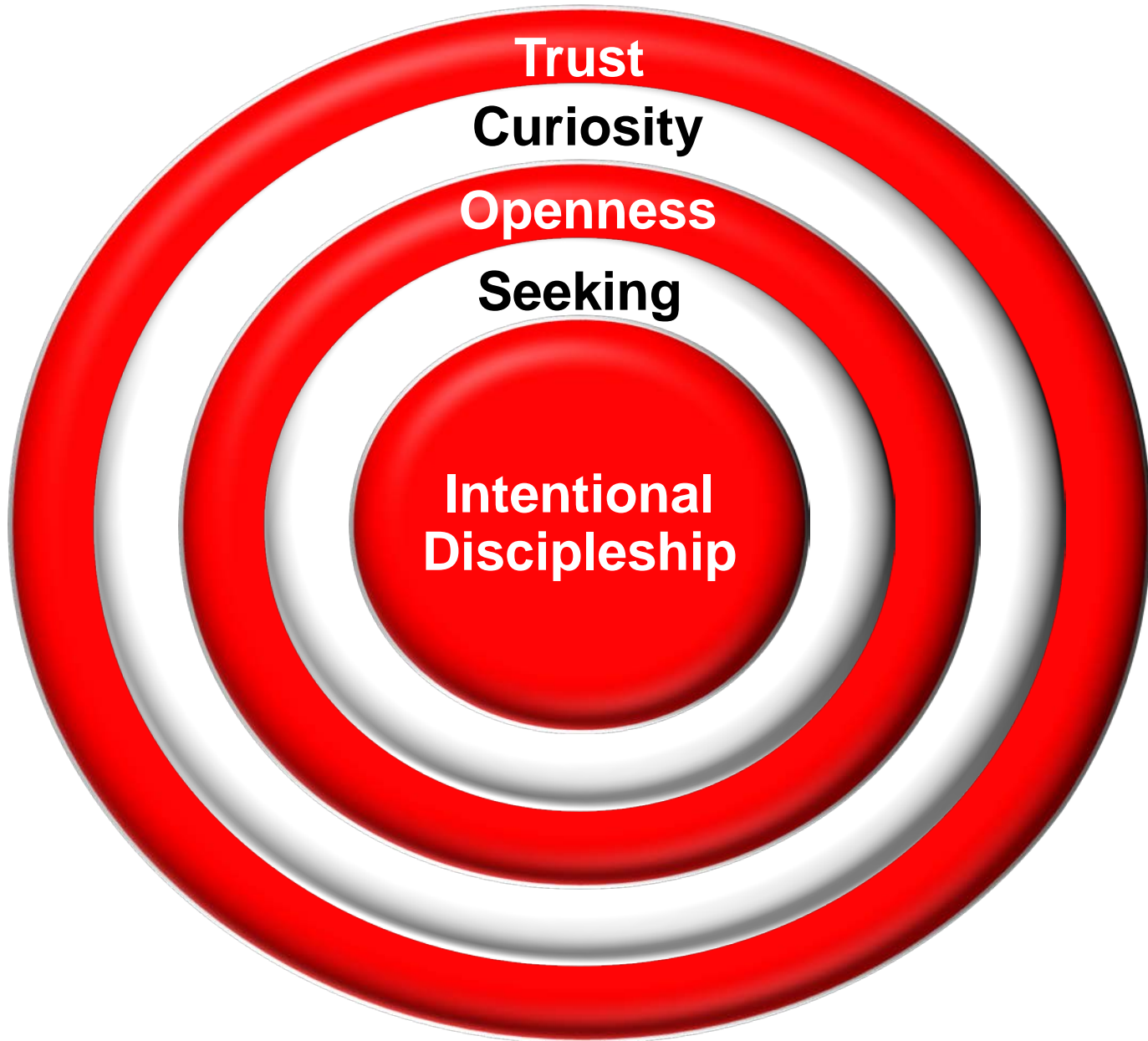
Focus: Lived relationship with God

– Baptized or unbaptized, churched or unchurched.

1. Initial Trust
2. Spiritual curiosity
3. Spiritual openness
4. Spiritual seeking
5. Intentional discipleship

Adapted from Five Thresholds of Post - Modern Conversion, Doug Schaupp, 1998

Thresholds of Pre-Discipleship Conversion



Threshold of Trust

- Characterized by human trust in God, the Church, or a Christian
 - In the 21st century this kind of trust must be earned

- This Is Not:
 - Active Faith

Threshold of Curiosity

- Characterized by a desire to know a little bit more about what we believe and how we live
 - Can be “provoked”
 - Important to try and help others become curious about Jesus

- This Is Not:
 - Deep soul searching
 - Necessarily a heartfelt search for Truth

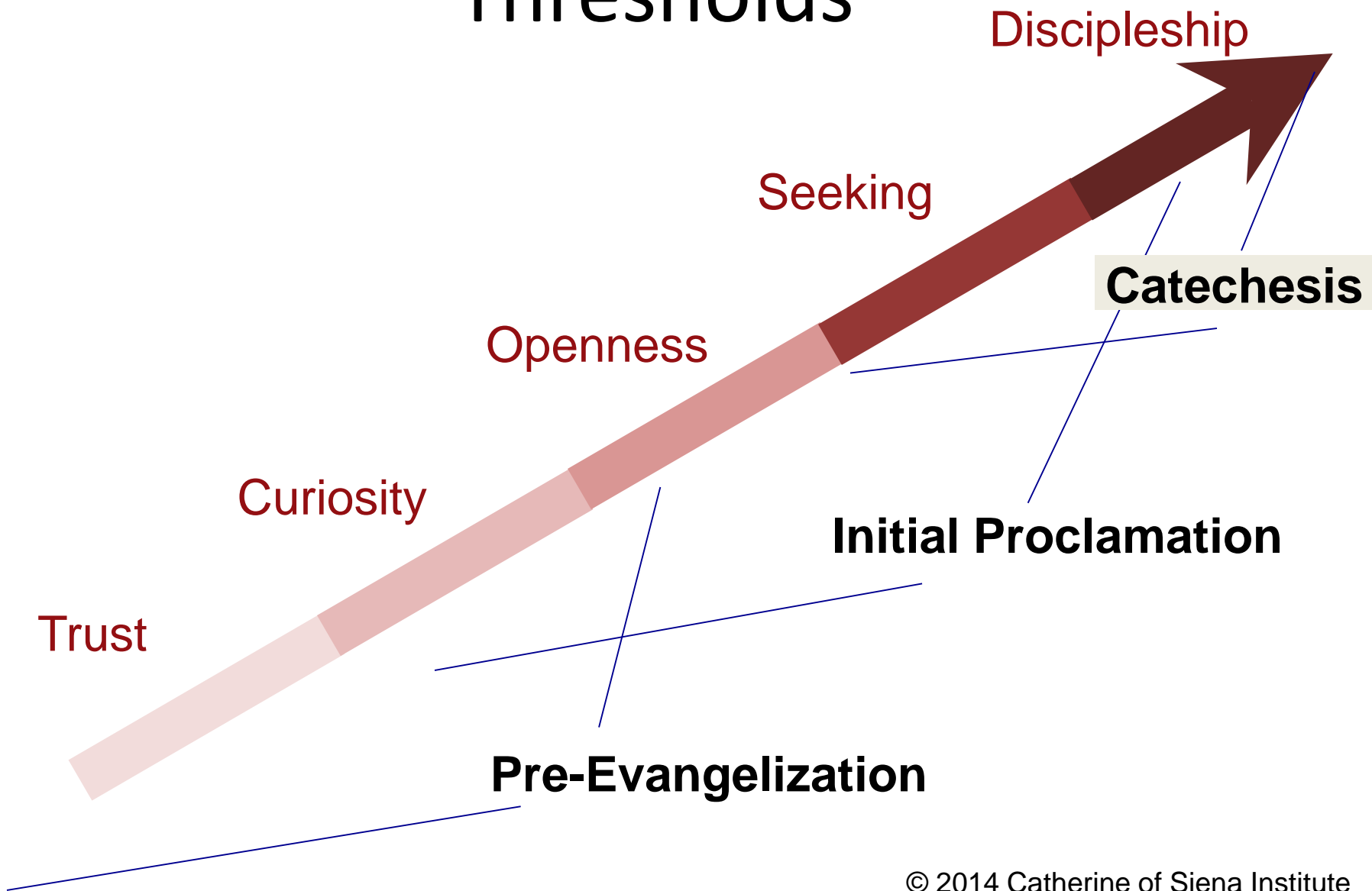
Threshold of Openness

- Characterized by a general openness to “change” at some point (not necessarily now)
 - People can try on worldviews and possibilities here without commitment
 - Difficult to move from here into Seeking
- This Is Not:
 - Readiness to confront lifestyle issues or convert
 - An active desire to change

Threshold of Seeking

- Characterized by an active desire to begin a relationship with Jesus Christ (even if unsure how)
 - This is the threshold at which people wrestle with lifestyle issues and issues of the “Lordship” of Christ
 - Desire for repentance
 - Exposure to other disciples—especially those who recently made the journey into discipleship—is very fruitful
- This Is Not:
 - Intentional Discipleship—even if the person shows up to everything

Stages of Evangelization & Thresholds



Threshold Application

You are hosting a major parish event that will include a top-rank Catholic speaker and focus on Eucharistic Adoration and an invitation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

How will your understanding of the Thresholds shape how you invite different people to the event?

For this exercise, each table number will have someone at a different Threshold. How would you invite that person?

Table 1: Trust

Table 3: Openness

Table 5: Discipleship

Table 2: Curiosity

Table 4: Seeking

Threshold Application

Your parish has the opportunity to partner with a local nonprofit and help build houses for those men and women who are in transition from homelessness.

How will your understanding of the Thresholds shape how you invite different people to this outreach?

For this exercise, each table number will have someone at a different Threshold. How would you invite that person?

Table 1: Discipleship

Table 3: Curiosity

Table 5: Openness

Table 2: Seeking

Table 4: Trust

Pastoral Planning Application

Make a list of all of the activities and ministries of your parish. Then, place each of these activities under the area of the discipleship lifecycle (Making, Maturing, and Missioning Disciples) for which they primarily function.

Arrange them based on what they actually accomplish and not what you think they should accomplish after you rework them?

Are there any areas of the lifecycle which are underrepresented?

Discuss what you might place in those underrepresented areas to boost their focus?

How might you change existing activities and ministries so that they could provide fruit in those underrepresented areas.

Questions?