

ENCOUNTER-ACCOMPANY-COMMUNITY: LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

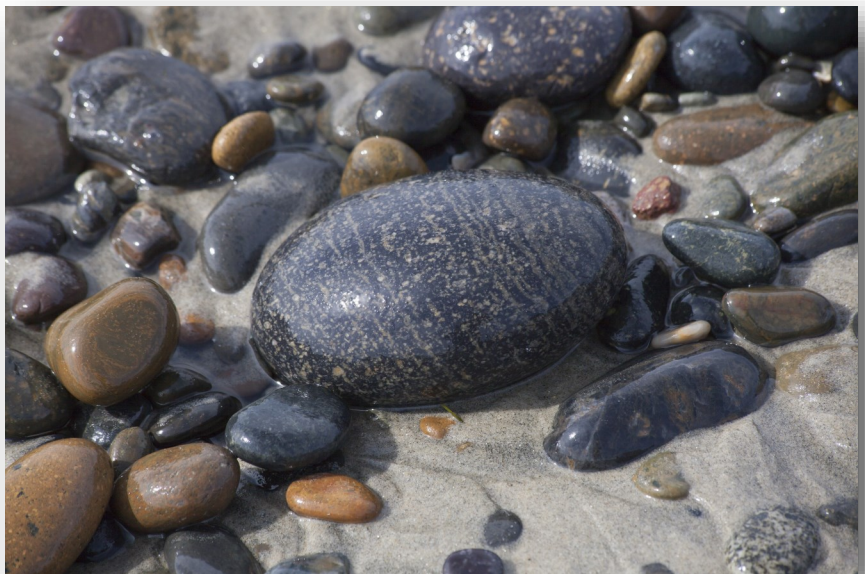
MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP



In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). *All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, ...The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. (Evangelii Gaudium, 120)*

“...and, like living stones, let yourselves be built* into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1Peter 2:5).

“Today as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet...” (*The Joy of the Gospel, 127*) *At Home, On the Job, In the Neighborhood.*



ACCOMPANY

...helping the love of Jesus take root in the life of another.

Today more than ever we need men and women who, on the basis of their experience of accompanying others, are familiar with processes which call for prudence, understanding, patience and docility to the Spirit, so that they can protect the sheep from wolves who would scatter the flock. We need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur. (171)

COMMUNITY

...a place of invitation, welcome and hospitality (Evangelii Gaudium 27)

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters". (Evangelii Gaudium, 26, Christifidelis LAici, 28)

In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach... (Evangelii Gaudium, 26)



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What I most want to share about my faith is...?

The person who I can accompany is...?

My parish can move into the community by...?

SUSAN M. TIMONEY, STD

@DRTIMONEY

MARKETPLACEMYSTIC.COM