

July 14/15, 2018

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

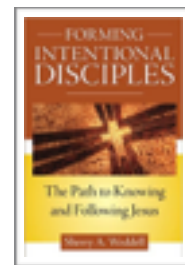
Being Intentional About Forming Intentional Disciples

I had the opportunity to attend the Divine Renovation Conference in Nova Scotia last month. The days were long, with meetings that lasted from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. But they were exciting because we heard people from all over the world speaking about the power of the Spirit moving in their parishes. Pope John XXIII called the Second Vatican Council to throw open the windows of the Church and to let in the Holy Spirit. It is happening, right now, all over the world, but if we are like the lazy servant who buried his talent rather than investing it, then we will be squandering the gifts God has given us.



Divine Renovation challenges us at St. Paul to be intentional about our mission, to be intentional about forming a Christ-centered culture, and to be intentional about forming leaders, Christ-centered leaders that bear fruit a hundredfold. It moves the parish away from doing things, anything, just because “we’ve always done it.” We must be intentional about using every resource that God has given us to invite others into a deeper relationship with Christ. We can no longer settle for doing good things for good causes. We have been gifted with a special grace of the Holy Spirit to do amazing things that lead others to know and follow Christ.

There has been a good deal of discussion lately about forming intentional disciples. A few years ago, Sherry A. Weddell wrote a book entitled, *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*. This book captured the imagination of thousands of Church leaders across the United States. In fact the Diocese of Jackson scheduled Sherry Weddell for the Diocesan Convocation this October. Her book drives home the point that being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not about rules, rituals, and programs, but about knowing Jesus and following Jesus. The problem is that what so often happens in the Church is that the life is sucked out of the great ideas by the very organization (or lack thereof) that seeks to bring it about. In other words, how do you form the People of God into intentional disciples of Jesus Christ unless you have an intentional culture, organization and plan to do that?



This is precisely where the Divine Renovation Network fits into the overall equation. ChristLife has been a tremendous boost for our parish. One can see the enthusiasm as people come to know and follow Jesus Christ. However, without some intentional direction and plan, this too will “burn out” in the doldrums of complacency and apathy.

This is not a job for a few Church leaders in the hierarchy. The strength of the Church is and has always been the laity. Divine Renovation is an opportunity for St. Paul to be intentional about her direction, to be intentional about forming lay leaders, and to be intentional about inviting everyone to know and follow Christ.

—Deacon John McGregor

Mass Intentions ~ July 16-22, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — US Armed Forces (Sp Int)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Vincent Muffeletto (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Joan Goodman (RIP)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Francine Gilmer (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Edward & Eileen Prybylski (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Francine Gilmer (RIP)

Adoration this week: Mon—Fri 8am-12noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00 pm or by appt.

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Abby Flaherty

Zena Lowrey

Rest of the Soul:

Andrew Hehir, nephew of Eileen Lawson

submit prayer requests to the Church office

liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

601-992-9547



Altar Flowers this week: In loving memory of Alan Freeland
Donated by: Janis Freeland



Take Note ~ Save the Date ~ Mark Your Calendar

Religious Ed Registration — We will open registration for all Religious Ed Classes for ages 3 years through 12th grade during the entire month of August. Registration will be online. Classes will begin the week of September 9th. Ages 3 years through 6th grade meets Sundays @ 9:15 am. 7th through 12th grade meets Wednesdays @ 6 pm. An adult class meets Sundays @ 9:15 am. All are welcome. Contact Renee Borne for more information at rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Small Group Study — August 19 — Mark your calendars for our next parish-wide Small Group Study beginning the week of August 19th. We will announce the book choice soon. There will be opportunities to form new groups or for individuals to join existing groups. Contact Sarah O'Donnell for more information at fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com.

ChristLife Sessions — All are invited into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Discover or deepen your relationship with Him and be transformed into His missionary disciple. The ChristLife Process helps us discover, follow, and share Jesus Christ. Registration will be online. Contact Rodney Hipp for more information at adult.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com.

Discovering Christ October 23—December 11, 2018 (Retreat Day Dec 1st)

Sharing Christ October 4—November 17, 2018 (Retreat Day Nov 17th) *must have completed Discovering & Following Christ*

Following Christ April 23 — June 4, 2019 (Retreat Day May 18th) *must have completed Discovering Christ*

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey.

We, too, are called to be His Missionary Disciples.



Church website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Church office phone: 601-992-9547

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm; Friday 8:00am-12noon