

WHERE ARE YOU IN DISCIPLESHIP?

In week two, Fr. Pierre focused on the terms we need to know in order to continue on course with the roadmap for Rerouting. Of these terms, they all led to the final term — **missionary discipleship**.

Both in the homily and deeper dive, we were reminded that disciples are called to “**go** and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). We, too, are called to go forth from each Mass to share Jesus with others.

Now, some of you may feel you’re already doing this. Others may be ready. Some are unsure, while others are just beginning to understand their relationship with Jesus.

Regardless of where you are personally on this journey to missionary discipleship, you cannot neglect this Great Commission — to **GO** and **MAKE** disciples of others. In other words, like the disciples, each of us is called to invite others to Jesus — to meet Him, know Him and, hopefully, accept and respond to His love.

You see Christianity is not something we are meant to keep to ourselves. There could be all kinds of reasons you want to keep your faith to yourself — fear, comfortability, laziness.

Do you invite friends, both Catholics and non-Catholics, to join you for Life Teen or other youth ministry events? Have you been yourself committed to these programs to deepen and help you grow in your faith?

For those who are new to this, maybe it’s as simple as inviting and saying, “I go to this program and I think you would like it. I’ll be there, you should come check it out.”

For those who aren’t so new, perhaps it’s the same words. Or maybe it is inviting someone back to Life Night, Mass, Rerouting for Teens or a weekend retreat.

If you think you’re already a strong disciple, then your responsibility may be even greater. You may need to take your place by being present and welcoming others, encouraging them when they come to the Church and being the welcoming person they need (who maybe you once had). The best practice of discipleship is mentoring others, which necessitates being present to have an opportunity to do this.

Now, it would be easy for any of us to simply associate with those who are in the same spot in our faith lives, but that’s not what the disciples did. And that’s not missionary at all. For example, forming a group that is exclusive and only those who have reached a certain level of discipleship is counterproductive in that it doesn’t practice what the member claim to be — disciples. True disciples are disciple makers.

Maybe you don’t like when new people come to Life Teen or a lectio divina study — it makes you feel uncomfortable and it’s harder to be with “your friends” who attend every week. Disciples are not called to comfort. And they are certainly not inward focused.

Imagine if the disciples had never shared about Jesus, never told anyone about the resurrection, His ascension or the descent of the Holy Spirit. In that world, none of us would be Catholic. The Christian faith would have died.

The deeper you are in discipleship, the greater your responsibility in the mission. So here’s the challenge: **Go before the Blessed Sacrament and identify where you are in discipleship and how well you are carrying out your mission to “go” and “make.”**

-By **Chris Epplett**, *High School Youth Minister*