



STATEMENT OF LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE
*FORMING CATHOLIC LEADERS
AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES
2017 Annual Leadership Convening*

Inspired by Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel, more than 100 Catholic leaders from across the USA gathered to explore best practices in developing Catholic leaders as missionary disciples. Building upon a framework of empowered humility and creativity in ministry, participants articulated a vision of leaders as missionary disciples grounded in authenticity, joy, relationship, and attention to those at the margins.

There was a strong desire to take the next step beyond engaging laity to appointing, recruiting, promoting and empowering diverse lay leaders. This requires laity and ordained being in right relationship as co-responsible for the mission of the Church.

Formation of leaders as missionary disciples is more than an intellectual experience, it is one that happens through encounter with God's people in vibrant local communities, through mutually beneficial service, and immersion experiences.

**DEVELOPMENT OF CATHOLIC LEADERS AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES
MOST OFTEN INVOLVES:**

1. Commitment to action and contemplation centered on Jesus and the Gospel.
2. Building bridges between laity, clergy and religious through shared formation, mentoring and leadership.
3. Partnering with the full reality of our multicultural, multilingual Church and society.
4. Preferential option for people on the margins.
5. Commitment to engage women, youth and young adults in meaningful leadership.
6. Engaging people where they are rather than condemning them.
7. Accepting risk and inviting the imperfect disciple to serve.
8. Practicing accompaniment by "partnering with" rather than "doing for".
9. Making space and providing resources for people to create the Church to which they want to belong.
10. Going outside of one's comfort zone, especially through short- and long-term mission experiences.