



Discipleship Weekly

(Taken from Divine Renovation by Fr. James Mallon)

What do we mean by making disciples? In Church culture, we often use terms such as “disciple” or “Apostle” without understanding the meaning of these words, but “disciple” is so key to our mandate from Jesus that we ought to know its meaning. The word in Greek for “disciple” is *mathetes*, which, in turn, comes from the verb *manthanein*, meaning “to learn.”

To be a disciple is to be a learner. To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be engaged in a lifelong process of learning from and about Jesus the master, Jesus the teacher. The English term “disciple” comes from the Latin *discipulus*, and provides the connotation that this learning process is not haphazard, but intentional and disciplined. To become a disciple is to commit to such a process of growth.

But how many of our parishioners does this term honestly describe? We all have people in our churches who are passionate about their faith, committed and hungry to grow and learn, but they are, sadly, a small minority who often are considered a little odd by “normal Catholics.” When I speak to pastors, they will often admit that this designation, describes about 6 to 10% of regularly attending Catholics—at most 20%, if a parish is particularly vibrant. We have a real problem before us. It is the membership of our churches who are called to be making disciples, but most have not yet become disciples themselves. A further obstacle to this task is that being an adult learner in the faith is viewed as entirely optional and non-essential. We value it for children and teenagers, but somehow we think adults do not need to learn, grow or mature. Catechesis in Catholic circles usually means what we do as children. Although the laity of our Church is more educated and professional than at any other time in history, the corresponding literacy in things of faith, theology, scripture and the spiritual life lags far behind.

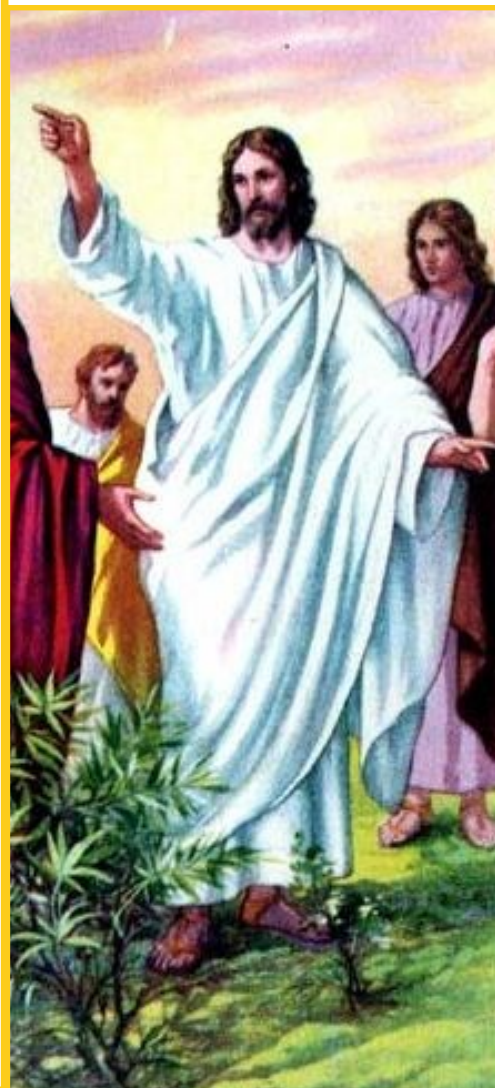
The only solution going forward is to return to what Jesus asked of us 2,000 years ago: to not just make believers, or “practicing Catholics,” but **TO MAKE DISCIPLES**.

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- Feed the Hungry
- Ways to serve the poor at OLPH
- Preparing for Next Sunday

Special points of interest

- What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?
- What is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?
- Get a jump start on next Sunday’s Mass by reflecting on the Scripture Readings.



The Corporal Works of Mercy



The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs". They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

Feed the hungry

There are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.

Give Drink to the thirsty

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

Shelter the homeless

There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.

Visit the sick

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

Visit the prisoners

People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ.

Bury the dead

Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

Give alms to the poor

Donate money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need. Do research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.

Feed The Hungry

Here are some ways to practice the Corporal Work of Mercy of Feeding the Hungry:

- Having delicious food at Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner? Donate to a Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive so everyone can have something to eat.
- Research, identify and contribute financially to organizations that serve the hungry like the OLPH Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference.
- The next time you make a recipe that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and donate one to your local food pantry or soup kitchen.
- Try not to purchase more food than you are able to eat. If you notice that you end up throwing groceries away each week, purchasing less groceries would eliminate waste and allow you to donate the savings to those in need.

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The Society of St. Vincent dePaul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a volunteer driven 180 year-old organization that daily strives to feed, house, cloth, and heal those in need. The Blessed Frédéric Ozanam founded the "Conference of Charity" in Paris, France on April 23, 1833. They later changed the name to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to honor their patron. The Society is global, the Society first came to the US in St. Louis, Missouri and has spread to all 50 states. The Society in the United States has over 160,000 trained volunteers who have provided 11.6 million hours of volunteer service in 2015.

At Our Lady of Perpetual help, by the generosity of our Parishioners, the St. Vincent de Paul Conference made over 900 visits during the past year. We were able to provide hundreds of our neighbor families with food; we paid rent and utility assistance to keep families in their homes and the lights on; we have been able to provided Care cards for use in the SVDP thrift stores for needed clothing, house hold goods and furniture; and we have often paid for medicine and directed our neighbors to the medical and dental services available at The Society's 420 W. Watkins main campus. We carry invitations to visit OLPH and invite those we serve to spirituality with prayers, rosaries, and prayer cards.

The OLPH conference of St. Vincent de Paul answers calls from our neighbors-in-need 362 days a year. Teams of, at least, two Vincentians make home visits to provide a portion of what they need. We meet the homeless on the street taking them food, and sometimes paying their phone bills, paying for medicine or directing them to housing services along with bus passes for transportation to those services. Our Conference meets weekly at 5PM Tuesday in the Parish center. Our Spiritual Adviser guides us through a time of spirituality with an opening prayer followed by reflection and a discussion on the recent gospel readings. We discuss the visits we made during the past week and review any further assistance that would be within our ability to provide. Our membership roster, 40+ strong, and there is always room for more; there are many opportunities to serve. We believe in attending to the needy and suffering, a Vincentian is ministering to Jesus Christ himself.

**Want to learn more about our local St. Vincent de Paul Conference
and the good work done by members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
or maybe you would like to find out how you can be part of the
Vincentian Family?**

**Contact our parish Anne Marie at:
achiappettastvdp@cox.net**



Prepare Yourself for Next Sunday's Mass

September 25, 2016

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Amos: 6:1a, 4-7

Responsorial Psalm: 146: 7,8-9,9-10

"Praise the Lord, my soul!"

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

We ask for God's grace to repent for the times we have not responded to others with mercy.

Going Deeper to Understand the Gospel

The movie about the Watergate scandal, "All the President's Men," has a famous quote "follow the money." The reporters unraveling that scandal would have to trace campaign donations and their potentially illegal use. We could apply this famous quote to our Gospel for today and last Sunday. The two text are, as Scripture scholar Fr. Eugene LaVerdiere writes about the proper use of wealth." Now our Lectionary cycle has dropped verses applying to this portion of the Gospel, which calls the Pharisees in Jesus' audience "lovers of money." They scoff at Jesus' instructions to his disciples in last week's text about the use of money. Other missing verses, Fr. Laverdiere says, offer a context about the Law and the Prophets, that is, the Old Testament mission that ended with John the Baptist. Laverdiere writes that Luke maybe applying the label "Pharisees" to Christians who had heard Jesus' message and rejected it. Jesus tells the story about a rich man who enjoyed his wealth but ignored the poor beggar Lazarus at his door. In the afterlife, the tables are turned, and the poor man rests in the bosom of Abraham enjoying a good existence, while the rich man is in torment. Luke's community still has the Law and the Prophets, guiding their use of money to help the poor. "By implication," Fr. Laverdiere writes, "Luke is stating that the Word of Jesus, the Risen Lord in the community, does not always result in the sharing which should characterize it." Pope Francis has written much about the inequalities surrounding wealth and the world's goods. His words were rejected by some as outside the realm of a Pope's field of concern. But they nevertheless echo today's warnings from Jesus, "Who are the beggars at the doors of the world's wealthy?" and "How is the Gospel challenging us to changes the systems depriving the Lazarus of a place at the table?"

The Prophet Amos

