

Crafting a New Vision for IC Parish



As we attempt to craft our new vision for Immaculate Conception Parish, we must first ask ourselves the following question: *what is God's purpose for the Church?* The answer to this question can be discovered in the Gospels. In the Great Commandment, Jesus taught us: "You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind (...), and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." In the Great Commission, Jesus instructed his Apostles: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them (...), and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Through these quotes from Scripture, five primary purposes of God's Church are clearly revealed: worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, and evangelization. Our love for God is expressed through our worship of Him, while our love for our neighbor is conveyed through our service to others. Evangelization is expressed as we go forth into the world, ministering to the lost and calling others to become disciples of Christ. Our journey as baptized people becomes an expression of our fellowship. And finally, we demonstrate our discipleship by teaching God's truth and helping people to mature in their faith.

With that in mind, in our attempt to establish a missional and disciple-making culture in our Church, (and drawing inspiration from the renowned St. Benedict Parish of *Divine Renovation*), our parish leadership team has developed the following vision statement for IC parish: ***Immaculate Conception parish is a growing and vibrant faith community that introduces people to Christ, brings them to spiritual maturity, equips them for ministry, and sends them out to transform the world. All members are committed to worship, to connect, to grow, to serve, and to give.***

The mission of our parish is to reach the lost and grow disciples through worship, fellowship, discipleship, service and evangelization. To better enable our parishioners to always carry our mission in their hearts and minds, we have conceived the following purpose statement: ***"Love God, serve others, make disciples."***

If you would like to offer any comments regarding either our parish vision statement or our parish purpose statement, please feel free to contact me. I also humbly ask you all to continue to pray for each other during this time of renewal, to be open to proposed changes, and to consider joining an army of volunteers needed to transform our parish. May the Holy Spirit inspire and empower us all to become missionary disciples.

Fr. Robert

Divine Renovation Corner... We are warmly inviting all of our parishioners to actively & faithfully participate in the life of our parish family by assisting us with the transformation of our parish culture. We continue to encourage you to kindly take the time to read Fr. Mallon's book: **Divine Renovation: Bringing your parish from Maintenance to Mission** and to act out of a commitment to our parish - to begin to grow with us in faith and in service to God and to kindly do your part to help us bring the hope of the future into the present. Copies of **Divine Renovation** are conveniently available in our Parish Office. The book can also be purchased online at www.twentythirdpublications.com.

For those that have already read the book (or for those who have completed at least the first five chapters), our fourth *Divine Renovation Workshop* will be held next **Saturday, November 17th from 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon** in our Rectory Assembly. If you plan on attending, please contact our Parish Office (773.775.3833) to R.S.V.P.

For those who have already attended one of our workshops and would like to continue the discussion further in a relaxed, pressure-free environment, our next session of *Divine Renovation Conversations* will be held on **Monday, November 19th at 7:00 P.M.** in our Rectory Assembly.

