

Unleashing the Gospel Session Two

The second session of Unleashing the Gospel met on Wednesday, February 26 at 9 AM and 7 PM. This week the participants read the Introduction, Foundational Conviction and Catechetical Exposition portions of Unleashing the Gospel. We reflected on to bible verses, Matthew 28:19-20 and Ezekiel 37:1-14. One of the questions we talked about was fear of the Holy Spirit. Several people shared experiences where they allowed the Holy Spirit to work within them even though they were scared and when they opened themselves to experience the Holy Spirit it changed their lives.

In small groups we discussed several questions in two breakout sessions.

- What is the difference between a maintenance parish and a missionary parish?
- How do we see St. William? Maintenance or Missionary.
- Consider what the Archbishop wrote in the Introduction and Foundational Conviction.
- What strikes you about what he wrote?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life, in your parish, and in the Archdiocese over the last three years.
- Look at the glossary and discuss the definition of Evangelization.
- Which of the good habits resemble you? How do you see the Lord working in your life through these?
- How are the bad habits holding you back from being closer to the Lord?

In both sessions there were great conversations and points made at every table. Most of the participants feel that St. William has been a maintenance parish but is rapidly becoming a missionary parish. They mentioned the bible studies, Christ Life, Alpha, and now Unleashing the Gospel. Many stated they were feeling a change and awakening within St. William.

Evangelization was also discussed. Evangelization must be accomplished not only by example, but with deeds and action. Evangelization is important to our Catholic faith especially because of the negative image many have of Christians today. Society is moving toward feel good religions but we must rely on the Holy Spirit and the roots and foundation of our Catholic church.

Some concrete ideas people shared were to emphasize fellowship and hospitality; having greeters before mass along with the ushers. Another comment was allowing for silent prayer before mass.

Our next session meets on Wednesday, March 7th at 9 AM and 7 PM.