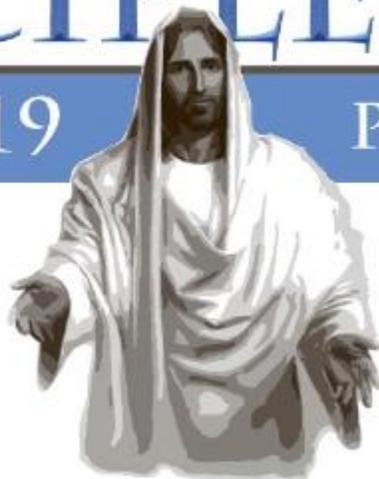


**Future Direction Subcommittee of the Supreme Council
Polish National Catholic Church**

DISCIPLESHIP

2019

PNCC



February 1, 2019

Dear Bishops, Very. Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,

As we begin this second month of Discipleship: 2019 we focus on teaching by example. We, as disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, continue to learn from His example in our reading and hearing of the Sacred Scriptures. How Jesus lived. What He taught. As His disciples today we need to teach others by example – teach them about the one that teaches us. It is not by forcing or guiltig someone into following Christ but rather by the way we chose to live – showing Jesus living in and through us – in a nutshell being Jesus to others!



[*Click here for this message on Discipleship 2019*](#)

During this month our Holy Church is calling us to take a look at our lives and find a way we can role model the life of Christian discipleship – being Jesus to others. A great way to do this is living the Virtues. Living a virtuous life, we know is living in a good and righteous way. The seven Heavenly Virtues are Faith, Hope, Charity Fortitude, Justice, Temperance and Prudence. How do we live these virtues on a daily basis? Which can we enhance during this month and teach others by our example – just as Jesus teaches us by His example?

Remember St. Paul's words to the Colossians (3:12-14): *As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*



This month it is suggested that we organize and attend some type of informal, faith-based discussion gathering for adults within our parish or cluster of parishes. This idea (which originated from one of the Synod discussion groups) is to use some form of "contemporary ministry" to accomplish the goal of "Increased spirituality through a welcoming church family that, through worship of God, will bring us closer together." Some suggestions for what this setting might be are: Soup, Sandwich, and Sermon; Wine and Spirits; Potluck Dinner and Discussion; Book Club and Bubbly....and you get the idea.

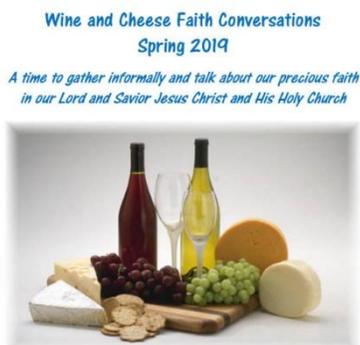
As some may shy away from either organizing or attending something like this – something that might take us out of our usual comfort zone, below are some suggestions to consider and will hopefully help you to say YES to trying to hold a gathering as we are all called to Discipleship: 2019:

1. Prevent the thought of trying something new from overwhelming you or others in your parish by focusing on just doing this ONCE to begin with. Don't worry about building out a whole schedule for these gatherings. Just plan the first one and then see what happens. Build from there.

2. TRY IT one time. To try just once should be the universal theme whenever we are presented with something different or new. How many times have we attempted to get a child to try a new food, or convinced our spouse to try a new restaurant? This is no different. No one is asking for a lifetime commitment of your Friday evenings here...just one.
3. Construct a setting that can help people to visualize that this will be something different and not the same old same old, we've tried this before, been there done that, church thing. If you can, create a casual setting in your church hall using comfortable chairs, accent tables, an area rug, plants and flowers or whatever you have available, to coincide with when you introduce the idea of this gathering. Let people see that the setting will be something different and more relaxed.
4. Gather input from the adults in your parish about when to have this gathering and what the format might be. Introduce a short survey one Sunday and ask the adults to complete the anonymous survey during coffee hour. Use this information to help determine the best date/time for your first event, asking just a few simple questions, such as:
 - Will you attend the Wine and Spirits, faith-based discussion gathering? Y/N
 - If yes, which of the following dates/times work best for you? Give two to three specific options and then include an "other" option and let them fill in the blank.
 - If you will not attend, can you provide some insight as to why not? For example, work schedule, no transportation, on vacation.
 - Do you have any suggestions for this type of gathering?
5. If childcare may be an issue in getting some of the adults in your parish to commit to even one time, consider having the kids come along and they can watch a movie together in another room. Naturally this is all dependent upon the age of the children and what resources are available, but the message here is to try and find a solution that will work for everyone for this one time.
6. Once a date and time is finalized, continue to promote this event. Email the parishioners with friendly reminders as the event approaches. Send out a postcard reminder such as a "Save the Date" kind of thing. Make a big deal about this gathering, reminding people how important their participation is.
7. If you are from one of our smaller parishes, try coordinating something with nearby PNCC parishes or at a Seniorate level if that works.

Reach out to the Future Direction sub-committee if you have questions or need more information on how to organize an informal, faith-based discussion. Send your email to futuredirection@pncc.org

As for the topic it had been suggested at Holy Synod to refresh our faith – perhaps a teaching or section from our Catechism or a Gospel passage and how this relates to our living as disciples each and every day of our lives to get the discussion started.



Here is the February 2019 Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Prayer Calendar for your consideration.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2019</h1> <p>PNCC Eastern Diocese Mission / Evangelism Prayer for the Year of Discipleship</p>					Pray daily & plan to attend the Mission Workshop - Identity: Who We Are in Christ -	at Holy Trinity PNCC, Plantsville, CT, March 29-31, 2019. You can register today!
According to our Catechism, "Virtue is the habit of doing good." It's a reward in itself.	Divine virtues--faith, hope & love--are gifts from God, infused into our hearts.	They help us to follow Jesus, to do His will, and to become more like Him each day.	Exemplifying His virtues in our lives, we can point others to Him. Let's do this together!	Read and pray Colossians 3:12-14 for yourself and your church family. Believe & live it.	1 Which of these qualities do you need most? Which would you most like to acquire?	2 Do others see you and your parish as the people of God? Are some changes needed?
3 Jesus wants to heal me and make changes in my life. Am I willing to let Him do so?	4 May God give strength to us and make us blameless and holy. (1 Thess. 3:13)	5 Live a quiet life and work so as to win the respect of unbelievers. ~ 1 Thessalonians 4	6 Pray that the Mission Workshop presenters will receive direction as they prepare.	7 May we pray for our leaders and hold them in high regard because of the work they do.	8 Pray for those who are in prison, justly or unjustly, that they might not lose heart.	9 Prepare for Mass with a fresh spirit of anticipation, that God will bless and renew His people.
10 Jesus does the miraculous in the midst of everyday activities. May we have eyes to see.	11 Pray for your loved ones who are ill or in need. Ask Jesus to heal and help them.	12 (Mark 7:1-13) Are there habits that Jesus is asking you to give up? Let Him work in you.	13 Lord, provide the means for all who wish to attend the Mission Workshop.	14 Share God's love with someone the world thinks of as "unlovable."	15 Do you have a skill which would benefit someone in need? Volunteer your time.	16 Share some of your resources with a local food pantry or aid organization. (See Mark 8)
17 Listen to today's Gospel (Luke 6). Which Beatitude most touches your heart?	18 God's Word is an inexhaustible spring of life. ~St. Ephrem, deacon (<i>Lit. of the Hours</i>)	19 Read Proverbs 8. Seek wisdom and receive even more blessings from the Lord.	20 Read and pray 2 Peter 1:1-10, and cooperate with God as He works in you and in His church.	21 The mouth of the just man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is right. (Ps. 37:30)	22 Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desire... (Psalm 37:4-5)	23 May God bless Christian marriages and families so that they would reflect His love to all.
24 Meditate on Luke 6:27-38, and take it to heart. Love. Have mercy. Forgive.	25 "We shall be blessed with clear vision if we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, for He, as	26 Paul teaches, is our head...in Him there is no shadow of evil." ~ St. Gregory of Nyssa	27 "Every Christian should be helping unbelievers become believers by showing them Christ..	28 That is making a disciple...Every Christian should be helping other believers grow to	more and more maturity. That is making a disciple... Every Christian should get help for	themselves to keep on growing...that is also our discipleship." ~ John Piper, desiringgod.org

We would also like to bring to your attention a couple of items happening across our Church. The PNCC 19th Annual National Mission and Evangelism Workshop will be held March 29-31, 2019. Here is the link for additional information: [Information for the PNCC 19th Mission and Evangelism Workshop](#)



We are called to do various service projects – many are concluding the Souper Bowl of Caring this week and another one for your consideration helps our YMS of R. On July 4, 2019, Spojnia Farm properties will be celebrating its 90th anniversary. To continue the tradition the United Y is focusing its efforts to give the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center the upgrades it needs for the youth of our church and the young at heart. Our faithful and parishes are being asked to donate to the “90 for 90” campaign in celebration of the 90th anniversary of Spojnia Farm. Thousands of people have stayed at Spojnia Farm or the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center in the last 90 years – an important part of our history.

[Click here "90 for 90" YouTube Video](#)

[Click here "90 for 90" Brochure](#)

Please keep these church-wide undertakings in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.

Remember as our Lord taught us by His example, may we, as His disciple today, teach others by the way that we live our lives – showing them Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*

We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:

Growth and Membership
Increase Spirituality
Lifelong Learning
Sacred Vocations
Community Involvement and Presence

Action Plan for Discipleship: 2019

Develop and emphasize Discipleship throughout 2019
Special Masses
Create a Business Free Zone
Adult Continuing Education
Social Media Presence
Two Days of Spiritual Retreat
Complete Six Community Service Projects