

OFFICE OF NEW EVANGELIZATION

TRANSFORMING PARISH CULTURE

CHARACTERISTICS OF A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE

A missionary disciple of Jesus lives the following practices and accompanies others in doing likewise...

- Has a personal relationship with Jesus in His Church.
- Repents from sin and seeks ongoing conversion to Jesus.
- Prays in intimate conversation with Jesus.
- Studies and lives the Bible.
- Participates fully in the Sunday Eucharist and the Sacraments.
- Engages in the life of the Christian community.
- Knows and practices basic Catholic teachings.
- Acknowledges and shares his or her charisms and gifts.
- Discerns and lives his or her personal vocation.
- Tells his or her faith story with clarity.
- Shares Jesus with confidence.
- Works for the transformation of the world.

SIX SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR RENEWAL

In his Pastoral Letter, *"For Greater Things You Were Born,"* Archbishop Gomez recommends to the Church that we engage in spiritual practices that can "help us to grow in our relationship with Jesus and deepen our sense of connection to his plan for our lives" (30). How much truer is this recommendation when we speak of developing a community of saints?

Individuals and the faith community need spiritual practices they can do together as a community, that will foster the spiritual, pastoral, and missionary conversion within ministry.

These spiritual practices lead us to a way of life that can be lived by any baptized person who seeks to infuse into ministry the transformative power and light of the Gospel.

The first spiritual practice is: To communicate consistently, a simple and clear vision of missionary discipleship.

The second spiritual practice is: To form individuals and the faith community in a clear understanding of the process of becoming a missionary disciple.

The third spiritual practice is: To establish in every faith community a communal missionary discipleship making process.

The fourth spiritual practice is: To connect with and accompany individuals daily, especially those experiencing transition, so they can encounter Jesus and grow in the midst of His Church.

The fifth spiritual practice is: To accompany individuals through vocational discernment to raise up leaders in all aspects of the Church's life and the secular world.

The sixth spiritual practice is: To send individuals out into the periphery to build trusting relationships and foster curiosity about Jesus.