

Five Paradigms: DPC Presentation, May 3, 2014

These are the five paradigms with a brief description as presented by Fr. Darrin Gurr, written by Brian McLane (condensed version). Select one or two you feel may be appropriate for your parish. Gather together with your priest and community to discuss and plan what you and your parish can do. Bishop Thévenot, M. Afr. will be joining the Extended Deanery Meetings in November to converse on your choice(s) and on your planning and implementation process.

PARADIGM ONE: A RESTORATION OF A PROFOUND SPIRITUALITY

There is a disconnection between religion and spirituality so we need a restoration of a profound spirituality, a sense of what we are looking for that we promoted at one time. We need to be a spiritual boutique where we can learn about God; and to help people weather the storms of life.

PARADIGM TWO: GO THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE OF THE INVERTED TRIANGLE

Turn the triangle around, form a triangle where the pastor is at the top and the regular folks at the bottom, to a triangle where the pastor is at the bottom and the regular folks at the top. In this inverted model, the community leads itself in to mission. There are no more volunteers. We are participants. It is a ministry of the baptized. We are claiming our baptismal responsibilities. This is how we put into practice everything we believe Jesus to be. The pastor's call is to form the Church, so that the Church can proclaim Jesus to the world. Discipleship naturally leads itself to community; and community leads itself to mission in forming the next generation of Christians. Jesus came not to save the Church, but, rather, to save the world.

PARADIGM THREE: A SCHOOL OF FORMATION

In this paradigm, we are forming leadership in the life of the world. Parishioners choose a different ministry every three years. Every ministry is a school of ministry. And choose ministries we would not be attracted to. Cultivate your own baptismal gifts. Every ministry is challenging me to become the best disciple I can be. Bring to life the talents God has given us, the ones we hear about in The Beatitudes and in Corinthians 13. No more "pew potatoes!"

PARADIGM FOUR: A NEW APPROACH TO SACRAMENTS

Begin to look at our sacramental life and how we are presenting it to those who come to our churches. The sacraments are there to nourish us as members of the Body of Christ. The Church is the great sacrament of life in the Church, the sacrament of salvation, a profound sign of the reign of God, and a witness to the Kingdom of Heaven. Forming people for the Kingdom of God is what the Church is called to do.

PARADIGM FIVE: THE CHURCH, A FIELD HOSPITAL, IN THE BATTLEGROUND OF LIFE

Always fighting secularism. Be a hospital of care and mercy. Typically, a battlefield hospital doesn't sit and wait for people to come to them. They are busy going out and bringing in the wounded. Pope Francis says that "the thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. Instead of being just a Church that welcomes and receives by keeping the doors open, let us try also to be a Church that finds new roads, that is able to step outside and go to those who do not attend Mass, to those who have quit or are indifferent. The ones who quit sometimes do it for reasons that, if properly understood and assessed, can lead to a return. But that takes audacity and courage!"

Shortly, the minutes and evaluation summary from the DPC meeting will be sent to your parish. These documents may add additional support to your planning and preparations. Please contact your parish office for a copy.