

KNOWING JESUS CHRIST, EMBRACING HIS MISSION

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne is inviting all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Seattle to go deeper in their relationship with Jesus. While people can encounter Christ in many ways, here are a few simple steps to help guide you in your journey to encounter the Lord and share his love and joy with others.



STEP 1: Review the Pastoral Plan

The pastoral plan is designed to help us re-examine how we're living for Christ. Familiarize yourself with the mission, focus areas and core values that will help guide how we think about our relationship with Christ and how we bring his light to the world.

MISSION Jesus said to his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." MATTHEW 28:18-20

FOCUS

1. Encounter Jesus Christ and one another.
2. Accompany each other, as one human family, on the journey of discipleship.
3. Live the unconditional love and joy of the Gospel.

VALUES

- **Faith in Action** — Jesus calls us to follow him and surrender completely to the will of the Father in every part of our life. We believe every moment is an opportunity to give glory to God.
- **Hope in Resurrection** — Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Our hope in the future guides how we live our lives today.
- **Truth in Love** — God created every human heart for true love. We find the fullness of truth in love by loving God with all our being and loving our neighbor as ourselves.
- **Unity in Diversity** — Unity is not a human invention; it is a gift from God. We are the Body of Christ, with our diverse gifts united by the Holy Spirit. We fully participate in this unity when we give reverence to all of God's creation and surrender to God's will.

STEP 2: Pray about it

Spending time with God in prayer is one of the best ways to deepen your relationship with him. There are many ways to pray and there isn't one "right way" to do it. Focus on setting aside intentional time each day to pray and to be with God. Consider starting with the following prayer.



Prayer for Pastoral Planning

Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for your ministry on earth, in which you proclaimed the Kingdom of God and conversion of life. We give you thanks for your passion, death and resurrection by which you manifested the perfect love of God, offering all who believe in you the gift of eternal life. We thank you for your promise to remain with us always as we faithfully carry out your mission.

As members of your Mystical Body, the Church, we come to you seeking the gift and guidance of your Holy Spirit. Help us to become who you call us to be and to accomplish all you ask of us according to the will of the Father.

Grant us the grace of knowing you, loving you and serving you in all our brothers and sisters. Grant that our faith in you may permeate every aspect of our lives. Help us to shed all worldly ways that we may live the Gospel with truth and integrity. Grant that we may be more perfectly conformed to you and live as your witnesses in the world today. Amen.

Mother of the New Evangelization, pray for us!

STEP 3: Read the Gospels

God speaks to us through the Scriptures, and reading the Bible is a powerful way to encounter Jesus. Spend time reading the Gospels, especially the Resurrection accounts (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20–21) and stories of people having life-changing encounters with Jesus, like Zacchaeus (Luke 19) and the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4).



STEP 4: Reflect on your life

After praying and reading the Scriptures, take time for self-examination and reflection. Think about your own life and your relationship with Christ. Spend time each week with one or more of the reflection questions below, which will help guide your efforts to become a disciple and make disciples for Christ:

ENCOUNTER

- How is my relationship with Jesus?
- How has Jesus shown up in my life?
- What do I notice about people who have deep relationships with God?
- Are there ways for me to continually develop my friendship with Jesus?

ACCOMPANIMENT

- Who are the people in my life that have accompanied me in my continued growth as a disciple?
- Am I always ready to accompany others? Do I reserve accompaniment for people and situations that are comfortable for me?
- How do I help others grow in their relationship with Christ and the Church?

LIVING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

- Whom do I admire that openly shares their love for God?
How do they do it?
- How do I share my love for Christ and my Catholic faith?
- When am I challenged to do this?
- What am I doing to grow my faith, to go deeper in my relationship with Christ?

STEP 5: Take action

After reflecting on your own life, think about the actions you can take to deepen your relationship with Christ and share his love with others. Here is a list of ideas you may want to consider. Could you commit to putting one of these into action?

SACRAMENTS

- Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Attend Mass every day you are able.
- If you have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, inquire at your parish about being confirmed.
- For aspiring Catholics, register for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

SERVICE

- Give your time and talent in service of those in need through organizations like the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Community Services of Western Washington.
 - St. Vincent Home | St. Vincent de Paul (svdpseattle.org)
 - Catholic Community Services and Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington (ccsww.org)
- Reach out to elderly members in your parish and offer to help.
- Volunteer in your parish and community.

