

THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST IN ST. ELIZABETH & ST. ISIDORE PARISHES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR READING

It has become abundantly clear that many aspects of parish life and ministry reflect customary ways of thinking and acting more than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This anomalous situation gives rise to a shared responsibility to reorient our parishes from maintenance to mission. This fundamental shift will inevitably impact parishioners, parish leaders, and institutional arrangements, and it calls for everyone's participation. The following reading list is for all who want to understand what moving "from maintenance to mission" means in practice and why it is urgently needed. Each item on this list will generously reward a careful, thoughtful reading.

White and Corcoran, *Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter*. This accessible, widely-read, eye-opening, and transformative book is a good place to begin. It brings the conversation about maintenance and mission down to earth, and provides background and language for our own discussions.

James Mallon, *Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission*. This highly-regarded book draws on the experiences of St. Benedict Parish in Halifax, NS, and the wisdom of its extraordinary pastor. It has become a major, even indispensable resource for pastors and parishioners who want to make their parishes centers of evangelization.

Sherry Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*. This source sharply focuses attention on the why, wherefore, and mission of parishes, and underlines the need to be deliberate and intentional in our discipleship.

Disciples in Mission: A Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Boston. The text can be downloaded at <http://www.disciplesinmission.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Disciples-in-Mission.pdf>. This official document provides the background and norms for the work of a collaborative in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*. Available in hard copy and online at http://www.seoh.org/images/adultformation/2013.11.24_Joy_of_the_Gospel.pdf. If we get what Pope Francis is saying (especially in the Introduction and Chapter 1), we'll also get why parish life—and our own personal and spiritual lives—require radical transformation. A [commentary](http://www.seoh.org/resources/joy-of-the-gospel) is available at <http://www.seoh.org/resources/joy-of-the-gospel>. Look in the "Helpful Resources" box.

The Pastoral Plan for the Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative. Now formally approved by Cardinal Sean, our pastoral plan will guide the work of St. Elizabeth and St. Isidore Parishes for the next several years. It is available at http://www.seoh.org/images/ParishBulletinsEtc/AppleValleyCollab_Pastoral_Plan_Final.pdf.

The [Concluding Document](#) of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean (Aparecida, Brazil, 5/2007). A major influence on *The Joy of the Gospel*, this extraordinary pastoral document assesses the Latin American situation in the light of faith in Jesus Christ and the call to missionary discipleship. It shows us how we might evaluate the particulars of our own setting and respond to its need for missionary disciples.