

COMMITTED TO CHRIST

ROADMAP TO DISCIPLESHIP

INTRODUCTION

Thank you so much for being a part of the faith community formed by St. Monica and St. Eugene parishes. We are truly blessed to have you. St. Monica and St. Eugene, together, represent a Committed to Christ community. This means that we want each and every parishioner in both parishes to **Encounter Christ** in a dynamic and life-changing way; to **Commit to Christ** as the source and central point of life; and to **Share Christ** with those around them. By this process, each of our parishioners will become an active and intentional disciple of Jesus Christ.

Without a good map, set of directions, or GPS, it can be really hard to find someplace new. If you don't even know what you are looking for it can be next to impossible! This Committed to Christ Roadmap to Discipleship is here to help you discover where you are going and how to get there!

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

St. Monica and St. Eugene need disciples. A disciple is someone who has Encountered Christ and established a personal relationship with Him, has Committed to Christ by changing the way they live their life, and Shares Christ in order to make new disciples. This is the destination for all of the members of the St. Monica and St. Eugene community. Everything that we do as parishes is to help you along this journey.

We want you to be a disciple of Jesus because the last thing He told us was to 'go make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19). A disciple doesn't just know a lot about Jesus, but actually knows Him. It is someone whose entire life revolves around their faith. It is someone who is joyful and fulfilled. It is someone who is prayerful and rooted in the Mass. It is someone who is knowledgeable about their faith and generous with their community. It is someone who simply can't keep their faith from spilling into daily life through sharing that faith with others and especially caring for the needs of others. This is the life of a disciple. This is what our faith community wants for you.

We want you to be a disciple and we want you to *know* it. Are you at a place where you would tell someone, 'I am a disciple of Jesus Christ and member of His body in the Catholic Church'? If no, don't sweat it! We aren't a county club for Saints! We are a support group for sinners and we are all journeying together! At least now all know where we are going.

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Committed to Christ is a roadmap to discipleship. Discipleship is where we are going, so the next question is how does one *become* a disciple. There are 6 steps, each one corresponding with Encountering Christ, Committing to Christ, or Sharing Christ: Prayer, Sunday Mass, Formation, Financial Giving, Evangelization, and Service. Let's break them down.

First we must **Encounter Christ**. Pope Benedict XVI said, 'being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but an encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and decisive direction'. In other words, being a Christian is a part of a life-changing meeting with Jesus Christ. As Catholics we meet Jesus primarily in two ways: **prayer** and the sacraments, especially the **Sunday Mass**. So we have the first two steps to Committed to

Christ: Prayer and Sunday Mass. We seek to grow in these areas so that we might get to know Jesus more and be drawn closer to Him as disciples.

Next we must **Commit to Christ**. Committing to Christ is the natural response to this encounter. This is the ‘new horizon and decisive direction’ that Pope Benedict talks about. If we are truly Christians seeking to grow as disciples, then we should be constantly seeking to commit our lives to him. There are primarily two ways that we show this commitment: **Formation** and **Financial Giving**. Formation is committing to learn more about the faith and *form* ourselves as disciples. What areas of my life are bringing me closer to God, and what is holding me back? Do I know *why* I believe what I say I believe? Financial giving is the opportunity for us to put our money where our mouth is. Jesus Christ speaks about money more than any other topic in the Bible. Tithing 10% of our income to God is a clearly established biblical principle and is talked about over and over again as a sign of God’s people’s commitment to Him. So we have the next two steps to Committed to Christ: Formation and Financial Giving. We seek to grow in these areas so that we might reorient our lives around Christ, not the things of this world.

Last we must **Share Christ**. If we Encounter Christ in a personal relationship with Jesus and Commit to Christ by giving our entire lives over to Him there can be no other response than to share Christ with those around us. As Catholics we share Christ primarily in two ways: **Evangelization** and **Service**. Evangelization means sharing the good news. Service is loving Jesus through loving the least of our brothers and sisters. Remember, they will know we are Christians by our love! So we have the last two steps to Committed to Christ: evangelization and service.

What is the mission of St. Monica and St. Eugene? **To make disciples.**
How does one become a disciple? **Encounter Christ, Commit to Christ, Share Christ**
How do we Encounter Christ? **Prayer and Sunday Mass**
How do we Commit to Christ? **Formation and Financial Giving**
How do we Share Christ? **Evangelization and Service**

Got it?

WHERE DO WE FROM HERE?

You know where you are going and you know how to get there. That’s awesome. We are so excited to be on this journey with you. We are going to use Committed to Christ as our guide in our growth as disciples.

The Committed to Christ Cards

You get these at Mass or in mail sent to your home. These cards are an opportunity for you to evaluate yourself in regards to the 6 steps of the journey. Be honest with yourself and use them as a chance to challenge yourself and grow! Make your commitments, put them on the cards, and turn them in. Then you will have a game plan and something to hold yourself accountable to. I promise this will change your life if you really put it into practice.

The Committed to Christ Formation Book

St. Monica and St. Eugene want to be with you on the journey and to give you awesome opportunities to grow in the 6 steps of Committed to Christ. Look to our bi-annual Formation Book as your resource for upcoming events and opportunities to grow in the 6 steps of Committed to Christ.

CONCLUSION

We are all in this together. We are a community that has your back! We are on your side and we love having you on ours. We are a community on a mission to change the world one disciple at a time! We aren't perfect, and that is okay. We are excited to have you as a part of the community and to journey with you. Grow with us. Pray with us. Pray for us (we need it). We will be praying for you (you need it). Begin using the Committed to Christ language with us. Try telling someone about how you have Encountered Christ in your life. Get outside your comfort zone to Commit to Christ a little more intentionally. Start asking God to show you opportunities to Share Christ with others. If you need help, we are here for you. If you want more information, just ask. Remember, the most important thing is that God loves you – and so do we!