Apostolic Formation Structure
Proposed 2/13/19

“We have seen it happen over and over. The presence of a significant number of disciples changes everything…”

*Forming Intentional Disciples*, pg. 80, Weddell

Goal: It is the task of the parish to “bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 13:47). For St. Benedicts this means bringing the Good News to the ends of Decorah and NE Iowa.

How: The parish cannot accomplish this task through its programming and events. Joe Fallen-away-Catholic probably won’t attend our offerings. How do we reach Joe then? By forming the people in Joe’s life who do want to grow in discipleship and then sending them out on mission, thereby encountering Joe with the lived Good News. Thus, the parish most likely reaches Joe through its formed and sent disciples not through its programming and events.

The Structure: Therefore, the structures of the parish primarily (not exclusively) serve to form and send those who want to grow in their discipleship. The flames are fanned through the parish structures and then sent out to burn in the world. This is a mirroring of the Mass. His disciples gather, encounter Him, are transformed by this encounter, and then sent on mission to transform the world.

- 1:1s are interwoven through all of the mechanisms/structures below, acting as the engine the makes the process go:
- Subiaco Formation Group (formation)
  - Target - FATN (Faithful, Available, Teachable, Natural)
  - Content - deep-dive discipleship
  - Offered twice a year (spring and fall)
  - 15-20 weeks
- Huddles (gathering of Subiaco participants and grads for support, nourishment, inspiration, and formation) (support and guide)
  - Target - Small Group Leaders and Subiaco
  - Content - a time to feed those spending themselves in their apostolate.
  - Offered monthly
- The Check In (weekly email to Subiaco participants and grads) (support and guide)
  - Target - Small Group Leaders and Subiaco
  - Content - News/notes and perfective catechesis with emphasis toward evangelization and small group leader formation
  - Offered weekly
- Mini-retreats (formation, arena for apostolate)
  - Target - all
  - Content - meditation, Reconciliation, prayer, some heart and habits catechesis, time for spiritual reading, time to connect
  - Offered once a month
- Other
  - Mini-missions? Could take the place of a mini-retreat twice a year.
  - Retreats for SGLs and others off-site?