

## IMPLEMENTING UNLEASH THE GOSPEL

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On Monday, June 4, 2018, over 20 members of parish Commissions and Staff gathered to reflect on Archbishop Vigneron's Pastoral Letter, *Unleash the Gospel*. For months, the members of the Commissions and Councils studied the Letter and considered how its Action Steps might guide our parish and help set us all "ablaze" with a passion for discipleship. Discussions were lively and many ideas floated, but it is necessary to remember the core message of *Unleash the Gospel*, to focus on the Letter's **Subject, Object, and End**:

### The Holy Spirit invites *you* to know Jesus Christ.

That's it!

The Holy Spirit is the Actor, *you* are the Object of His affections, and Jesus Christ is your End.

Every one of us is invited to a deeper relationship with Jesus, to experience personally, through Him and His Church, the love and mercy of the Father who wants us to be saints with Him forever in heaven. *Everything* is oriented to this Good News. Anything that comes between us and Jesus is to be set aside.

The Action Steps in *Unleash the Gospel* are practical ways families and parishes can cooperate with the Holy Spirit and remain focused on Christ. As Commissions explore ways for us to be a welcoming parish and help parents form "domestic churches" in their homes, we are called to be hospitable people, to invite our siblings and children, friends and neighbors to come and see what the Church offers, to meet Christ. The *first* step to becoming a family or parish of disciples who joyfully share the Gospel is for each of us to welcome Jesus into our hearts, to pray for the Holy Spirit to release in us the gifts of our Baptism. In this way, our parish as a body, and our families, may become the instruments of the Spirit we are meant to be in sharing the Good News.



Over the next several months, we can expect parish (and Archdiocese) initiatives and activities to help us learn how to live our faith and have our parish and families be places for encountering Jesus, growing in faith, and being joyful witnesses. The Commissions and Staff, for example, will be enhancing worship with more music, installing Stations of the Cross, planning a parish-wide Mission for next Lent, learning to share Jesus with each person met in Christian Service, accompanying parents in forming our children, and encouraging parish prayer. All this begins with us saying "Yes!" to the Holy Spirit's invitation to know Jesus in Whom all things are possible. Pray that the Spirit will guide the ongoing unleashing of the Gospel in our community.