UNLEASH THE GOSPEL

Reading and Reflection Guide on the Archbishop’s Pastoral Letter

Rev. August 15, 2017
August 14, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I present this reading and reflection guide for Archbishop Vigneron’s pastoral letter on the New Evangelization, Unleash the Gospel. Since its release on the Vigil of Pentecost, the letter has garnered praise from throughout the Archdiocese — and beyond. I pray that you will find this guide helpful as you prayerfully read the letter and discern how you can best contribute to the transformation of the Church of Detroit into a band of joyful missionary disciples.

In Unleash the Gospel Archbishop Vigneron shares his vision — informed by comments from thousands of faithful at a series of Parish Dialogue Gatherings and the deliberations of approximately 400 clergy, religious and laity at Synod 16 — for the future of the Church in southeast Michigan. With the aid of ten guideposts and a set of concrete action steps, our chief shepherd provides a roadmap to transform the Archdiocese of Detroit — individuals, families, parishes and Central Services — into a Church on a mission sharing the Good News through joyful evangelization and service. The Unleash the Gospel Reading and Reflection Guide are available at www.unleashtegospel.org.

The guide, through a series of eight modules, will lead you through the Introduction, Foundational Conviction, Catechetical Exposition, all ten Guideposts and the Conclusion of Unleash the Gospel. I would like to personally encourage parishes to avoid the temptation of rushing into implementation. Rather, I urge you to take the necessary time to first reflect and pray with the pastoral letter and allow it to transform your heart.

Changing a culture takes time. Just as the whole Archdiocese took time to pray, repent and discern God’s will for the New Evangelization, so we must model this practice in the months and years to come.

I wish to thank you for your prayerful support of Archbishop Vigneron and his efforts to transform the Archdiocese of Detroit into an outward-facing, mission-focused Church. With assurances of my prayers to St. Anne, our patroness and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, for you and your parish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Battersby
Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit
South Regional Moderator
# Table of Contents

- **Introduction** ................................................................. 3
- **Module 1 (Introduction and Foundational Conviction)** ........................................... 6
- **Module 2 (Catechetical Exposition)** ......................................................... 7
- **Module 3 (Guidepost 1)** ........................................................................... 8
- **Module 4 (Guidepost 2 and Guidepost 3)** ..................................................... 9
- **Module 5 (Guidepost 4 and Guidepost 5)** ..................................................... 10
- **Module 6 (Guidepost 6 and Guidepost 7)** ..................................................... 11
- **Module 7 (Guidepost 8 and Guidepost 9)** ..................................................... 12
- **Module 8 (Guidepost 10 and Conclusion)** ...................................................... 13
UNLEASH THE GOSPEL
Reading and Reflection Guide on the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter

Introduction

“The unleashing of the Gospel is not something we do individually but a communal task, a work of the whole mystical body of Christ to which we belong.” (UTG, n.6) This reading and reflection guide was developed to aid you, your parish staff, leadership team, councils, school staff, Catholic associations, and ministries in prayerfully reading Unleash the Gospel and discerning how you can be transformed by this pastoral letter. This guide will, through a series of eight modules, guide participants through the following sections of Unleash the Gospel: Introduction, Foundational Conviction, Catechetical Exposition, all ten Guideposts and the Conclusion. While parishes might be tempted to immediately focus on the action items, it is important for parish staffs and leadership to first take time to fully understand and embrace the spirit of the pastoral letter. The pastoral letter seeks a culture change which requires deep formation, discernment, and time.

Each module is designed to last approximately 45 minutes and includes prayer, opportunities for discussion and reflection. The modules are easily self-guided for groups of 4-8 people. Participants should be instructed to bring a small notebook and a copy of the Unleash the Gospel Pastoral Letter. In addition, please ensure that a Bible and a laptop (to access the videos) are available in the meeting room. The modules are flexible in that they can be implemented in different formats in order to accommodate various parish needs and schedules. Modules can be presented as follows:

1. Eight Sessions—One module per session (45 minutes per session)
2. Four Sessions—Two modules per session
3. Two 1/2 Day Sessions—Modules 1-4 in the first half day and Modules 5-8 in the second half day
4. One Full Day Session—Modules 1-8

Sample structures have been provided for groups wishing to combine modules (options 2-4). Please note that it is best to have a facilitator for the 1/2 day and Full Day formats — especially if the study group is larger than 8 people.

Four Sessions (Two Modules Each Session—90 minutes total)
If you have a group larger than 8 the starred * elements are best in small group table discussion

- **Session One (Modules 1 and 2)**
  From Module 2—In order: Document Exposition, Prayer & Reflection*, Challenge, Closing Prayer

- **Session Two (Modules 3 and 4)**
  From Module 3—In order: Opening Prayer, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*
  From Module 4—In order: Discussion Reflection*, Document Exposition, Prayer/Reflection*, Challenge, Closing Prayer

- **Session Three (Modules 5 and 6)**
  From Module 5—In order: Opening Prayer, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Prayer/Reflection*
  From Module 6—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Challenge, Closing Prayer

- **Session Four (Modules 7 and 8)**
  From Module 7—In order: Opening Prayer, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*
UNLEASH THE GOSPEL
Reading and Reflection Guide on the Archbishop’s Pastoral Letter

Two 1/2 Day Sessions (Four Modules Each Session—3 Hours for Each Session, including breaks)
A facilitator is recommended for this format.
If you have a group larger than 8 the starred * elements are best in small group table discussion.

• Session One (Modules 1, 2, 3 & 4)
  • From Module 2—In order: Document Exposition, Prayer & Reflection*, Challenge
  • Break (10 minutes)
  • Transition prayer to call the group back together: Father, in the course of this discussion, help us to come to know the Holy Spirit more deeply. Give us the grace to be docile to His promptings and be open to all the gifts of the Spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
  • From Module 3—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*
  • From Module 4—In order: Discussion Reflection*, Document Exposition, Prayer/Reflection*, Challenge, Closing Prayer

• Session Two (Modules 5, 6, 7 & 8)
  • From Module 5—In order: Opening Prayer, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Prayer/Reflection*
  • From Module 6—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Challenge,
  • Break (10 minutes)
  • Transition prayer to call the group back together: Lord Jesus, help us to be salt and light to our families, our friends, our co-workers, and those to whom we minister. Help us to have the qualities that will attract others to you. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we continue to read and study this pastoral letter. Bless our time together and let it be fruitful. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
  • From Module 7—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*

One Full-Day Session (Eight Modules—7 1/2 hours, including breaks, gathering and lunch)
A facilitator is recommended for this format.
If you have a group larger than 8 the starred * elements are best in small group table discussions.

• Morning Gathering
  • Continental Breakfast (30 minutes)
  • From Module 2—In order: Document Exposition, Prayer & Reflection*, Challenge
  • Break (10 minutes)
  • Transition prayer to call the group back together: Father, in the course of this discussion, help us to come to know the Holy Spirit more deeply. Give us the grace to be docile to His promptings and be open to all the gifts of the Spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
  • From Module 3—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*
  • From Module 4—In order: Discussion Reflection*, Document Exposition, Prayer/Reflection*, Challenge
  • Lunch (45 minutes)
One Full-Day Session, continued

- **Afternoon Gathering**
  - Transition prayer to call the group back together: *God our Father, you have called us to be witnesses to Jesus and have commissioned us to lead all people to encounter him. Send us your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds so that your will may be clear to us and that we may accept it. Dwell within our souls and make our hearts your own. Transform us into a band of joyful missionary disciples embracing the fruits of Synod 16 so as to share the good news of Jesus Christ in Southeast Michigan through joyful evangelization and service. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.*
  - **From Module 5**—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Prayer/Reflection*
  - **From Module 6**—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Challenge
  - Break (10 minutes)
  - Transition Prayer to call the group back together: *Lord Jesus, help us to be salt and light to our families, our friends, our co-workers, and those to whom we minister. Help us to have the qualities that will attract others to you. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we continue to read and study this pastoral letter. Bless our time together and let it be fruitful. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*
  - **From Module 7**—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*
  - **From Module 8**—In order: Document Exposition, Discussion/Reflection*, Document Exposition, Prayer/Reflection*, Fruits of the Study, Closing Prayer

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**Unleash The Gospel - The Pastoral Letter at a Glance**

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<tr>
<td>Jesus is pouring out his Holy Spirit in the AOD. Pastoral letter serves as charter for implementing Synod 16.</td>
<td>AOD is resolved to obey the Holy Spirit and be made by him a band of joyful missionary disciples.</td>
<td>Church in our time exists in a vastly changed situation. Our communities are ready for renewal.</td>
<td>Guideposts will serve as standards for all steps we take to advance the new evangelization.</td>
<td>Concrete action steps in support of the 9 propositions identified by Synod members as the place to begin.</td>
<td>The Church is alive because Christ is alive. This letter serves as a roadmap for the AOD under the leadership of the Archbishop.</td>
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**Catechetical Exposition**
- 3.1 The Missionary Nature of the Church
- 3.2 Reading the Signs of the Times in SE Michigan
- 3.3 The Roots of the Crisis
- 3.4 Good and Bad Habits

**Guideposts**
- 4.1 The New Pentecost
- 4.2 With Eyes Fixed on Jesus
- 4.3 The Word Made Flesh
- 4.4 Equipping for the Service of the Gospel
- 4.5 No Bystanders
- 4.6 Person-to-Person Engagement
- 4.7 Families
- 4.8 Attraction
- 4.9 Encounter, Grow, Witness
- 4.10 Calling Upon the Advocate

**Propositions & Action Steps**
- Families
- Parishes
- Archdiocesan Central Services
Module 1 (Introduction and Foundational Conviction)

Opening Prayer
- Read Acts 2:1-4 (opening Scripture from Unleash the Gospel).
- Invite participants to open their minds and hearts to what the Lord wants them to experience and learn in the study of this letter.
- Suggested Prayer: Lord, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we break open the Archbishop’s pastoral letter. Open our minds and hearts to your will. Help us to catch the vision and be inspired to participate in this great work that you have started. Bless our conversation and our time together. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Document Exposition
- Show Unleash the Gospel video. (Go to www.unleashtegospel.org. Scroll down and click on Archbishop’s Pastoral Letter.)
- Read the following quote from the first paragraph: “Jesus Christ makes all things new! He himself is at work to renew his Church in the Archdiocese of Detroit. He is pouring out his Holy Spirit anew so that every member of the Church may be formed and sent forth as a joyful missionary disciple, so that the Gospel may be unleashed in southeast Michigan.” Explain how this sets the tone and vision for the document.
- Summarize and discuss the rest of Introduction and Foundational Conviction highlighting the points below:
  - There’s no limit to what the Lord can do!
  - Our job is to give him our wholehearted “yes”!
  - List what has happened over the last three years.
  - This letter serves as the charter for implementing the fruit of Synod 16.
  - Quote opening statement in Foundational Conviction: “The Synod’s foundational conviction....” Note the bold language and the call for a paradigm shift.
  - Every person at every level must undergo a missionary conversion.

Discussion/Reflection
- Consider what the Archbishop wrote in the Introduction and Foundational Conviction. What strikes you about what he wrote? How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life, in your parish, and in the Archdiocese over the last three years?

Document Exposition
- Review the structure of the document.

Inspirational Moment
- Discuss the importance of a parish team working together to achieve this vision. Use an image of a competitive row team. The pastor is in the boat calling the shots, the staff/parishioners are rowing in sync to get to where we need to go, and the Holy Spirit is the coach directing the whole thing.
- If the church of Detroit engages in this initiative as directed, what are the possibilities?

Prayer to Unleash the Gospel in the Archdiocese of Detroit
God our Father, you have called us to be witnesses to Jesus and have commissioned us to lead all people to encounter him. Send us your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds so that your will may be clear to us and that we may accept it. Dwell within our souls and make our hearts your own. Transform us into a band of joyful missionary disciples embracing the fruits of Synod 16 so as to share the good news of Jesus Christ in Southeast Michigan through joyful evangelization and service. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.

* If Modules are being taught consecutively, the opening and closing prayers can be omitted.
Module 2 (Catechetical Exposition)

Opening Prayer
- Read Matthew 28:19-20.
- Silently, ask the Lord to reveal how you are called to be missionary.
- Suggested Prayer: Lord, open our hearts and minds to the many ways you call us to spread the Good News. Help us to be docile to the Holy Spirit and to follow your will. Bless our conversation and reflection today. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Document Exposition
- Review and discuss Marker 3.1: The Missionary Nature of the Church.
- Review and discuss Marker 3.2: Reading the Signs of the Times—"Dry wood is perfect for being set on fire."
- Review and discuss Marker 3.3: Roots of the Crisis – Go through definitions, and invite participants to give examples of how they play out in society. Review last paragraph in this section.
- Review and discuss Marker 3.4: Good and Bad Habits – Start with bad habits and then discuss good habits. “Good habits are particularly crucial to the cultural change we are seeking to effect in the Archdiocese.” Discuss how these habits affect us individually, in our families, and in the parish.

Prayer/Reflection
- Transition into a period of prayer and reflection. Ask the participants to quiet themselves with a moment of silence focusing on the presence of God in their midst.
- Suggested Prayer: Father, as we enter into this time of prayer, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to reveal to us areas where we need to grow.
- Instructions: Allow 5-7 minutes to reflect on the following questions in silence. Journal your thoughts as you go.
  - What are the bad habits/dispositions that hold you back from being closer to Jesus?
  - Of the good habits listed, which do you resemble? How do you see the Lord working in your life through these habits?
  - In silence, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you a word, image, or Scripture passage that He wants to share with you. What is your response?
- Share your insights with one another.

Challenge
- Challenge participants to grow in the good habits and grow out of the bad habits by doing a daily examen during their personal prayer time:
  - Be still and recognize that you are in the presence of the Lord.
  - Give thanks and recognize the good habits you practiced today.
  - Review your day. Where did you see God today? Where did you fall short?
  - Ask for forgiveness for any bad habits practiced today.
  - Resolve to cooperate and trust in the loving guidance of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer
- Read the final paragraph: “As your shepherd...”
- Proclaim Ezekiel 37:1-14. Suggested Prayer: Lord, we ask you to breathe life into all that is dead and to awaken all that is asleep. We put our gifts and talents under your authority. Use us to serve in your vast army. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* If Modules are being taught consecutively, the opening and closing prayers can be omitted.
Module 3 (Guidepost 1 – The New Pentecost)

Opening Prayer
- Read Acts 1:1-8. Ask participants to take 2 minutes to pray and reflect on the following questions: Do you believe in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you believe the Holy Spirit can empower this parish to carry out the vision in Unleash the Gospel?
- Suggested Prayer: Father, in the course of this discussion, help us to come to know the Holy Spirit more deeply. Give us the grace to be docile to His promptings and be open to all the gifts of the Spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Document Exposition
- Read and discuss the opening paragraph of the Guideposts section.
- Note that these guideposts came from the Synod and that they will serve as standards for all the steps we take to advance the new evangelization.
- The new evangelization cannot be accomplished without a new Pentecost. This is why the Guideposts begin with the new Pentecost.

Discussion/Reflection
- Before exploring the first Guidepost, invite participants to draw on their own experience of God.
- Have you ever had a powerful experience of the Lord? If so, please share.
- Show and discuss the following video. This testimony documents not only Mary’s experience of God, but His healing power. Recorded at SHMS, Faith in the Fire of the Holy Spirit Retreat, 6/23/17: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpVh1BHvQ4k.

Document Exposition
- As an introduction to Guidepost 1, explore the first Pentecost. Ask participants to share their understanding of the change that took place in the apostles before and after Pentecost. As needed, fill in the blanks with the following catechesis:

  Note how the apostles abandoned the Lord — right after the Last Supper in the Upper Room, right after receiving the Lord Jesus within, right after their priestly ordination! Judas sold out Jesus. All eleven apostles ran away from the garden terrified. Peter denied even knowing Jesus. All but John were still hiding the next day as Jesus was being crucified. Jesus had prepared them for three years about what would happen to Him and what they were called to do, but none of that preparation, none of Jesus’ prayers, not even the sacrament of the Eucharist, sufficed to keep them faithful. Something was missing. On Pentecost, the apostles, Mary and other disciples were huddled in fear in the same Upper Room, but the Holy Spirit worked a miracle in each of the apostles, and through them, in the whole Church. THIS was the difference. They received the Holy Spirit so as to continue the work that Jesus began in his earthly life (Acts 2).

- Review and discuss Marker 1.1: Acts 29, Marker 1.2: Repent and Believe in the Gospel, and Marker 1.3: Signs and Wonders.

Discussion/Reflection
- What is similar about what the Apostles did in Acts of the Apostles and what the Archbishop is calling us to do today?
- What are the guidelines that the Archbishop is offering to evangelize in today’s context? What are some other considerations?

Closing Prayer
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* If Modules are being taught consecutively, the opening and closing prayers can be omitted.
Module 4 (Guidepost 2 and Guidepost 3)

Opening Prayer
- Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Suggested Prayer: Father in heaven, help us to encounter Christ anew and rekindle our love for your Son, Jesus. In all the work that we do, help us to keep our eyes fixed on Him. Send your Holy Spirit to help us gain wisdom as we continue to discuss the pastoral letter. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Discussion/Reflection
- As in introduction to Guidepost 2, invite participants to explore Acts of the Apostles in order to gain understanding of why their evangelization efforts were so fruitful.
- Discuss: What is happening in these passages? What are the apostles doing that is leading people to convert to Jesus? As needed, fill in the blanks with the following catechesis:
  - In Acts 3-4 Peter begins to preach with authority and to perform miracles in the name of Jesus. In Acts 3:4, he heals a lame beggar, in 3:10-12, he proclaims the kerygma (the Good News that Jesus died and rose). The result? 5000 Converts (4:4), the community glorified God (4:24), all were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness (4:31). In Acts 5, they performed great signs and wonders (healed the sick, cast out unclean spirits) and a great number of men and women were added to them (5:14). In Acts 9, Saul encounters the Lord Jesus on the way to Damascus and becomes the greatest missionary of the early Church.
  - The encounter with Christ, proclamation of the kerygma and the testimony of what Christ did in their lives was the pattern for evangelization. Synod 16 recognized the need for the same pattern of activity today.

Document Exposition
- Review and discuss Marker: 2.1 Encounter with Jesus, Marker 2.2: The Kerygma, and Marker 2.3: Testimony, focusing on the directives of the Archbishop.
- Transition to Guidepost 3 by reading and discussing the following quote: “In our efforts to unleash the Gospel...” Discuss: Are these life-changing encounters happening now?
- Review and discuss Marker: 3.1 The Communion of the Church, Marker 3.2: Scripture, Marker 3.3 Reconciliation, and Marker 3.4: The Holy Eucharist. Discuss in particular how the Archbishop is challenging the Church to become more fruitful.

Prayer/Reflection
- Transition into a period of prayer and reflection. Ask the participants to quiet themselves with a moment of silence focusing on the presence of God in their midst.
- Take 5 minutes to pray and reflect on the following questions. Journal your thoughts as you go.
  - Have you really encountered the Lord? Have you surrendered your life to Him?
  - Search your heart...in what way are you longing for Christ?

Challenge
- During your personal prayer time, write a letter to Jesus expressing your longing for Him.

Prayer to Unleash the Gospel in the Archdiocese of Detroit
God our Father, you have called us to be witnesses to Jesus and have commissioned us to lead all people to encounter him. Send us your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds so that your will may be clear to us and that we may accept it. Dwell within our souls and make our hearts your own. Transform us into a band of joyful missionary disciples embracing the fruits of Synod 16 so as to share the good news of Jesus Christ in Southeast Michigan through joyful evangelization and service. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.

* If Modules are being taught consecutively, the opening and closing prayers can be omitted.
Module 5 (Guidepost 4 and Guidepost 5)

Opening Prayer
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31.
- Ask participants to pray and reflect on the following question: What would our parish look like if all the faithful were using their spiritual gifts?
- Suggested Prayer: Holy Spirit, stir into flame the gifts that you have bestowed on us. Open the flood gates of your grace upon every member of the body of Christ in our parish. Give us your wisdom to mobilize, form and train all members for carrying out the mission of building up the Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Document Exposition
- Together, read the opening paragraph of Guidepost 4.
- Review and discuss Marker 4.1: Evangelizing the Evangelizers, Marker 4.2: Equipping the Evangelizers, Marker 4.3: Charisms.

Discussion/Reflection
- Why is it important to first be evangelized before evangelizing others?
- Consider the practical skills listed in Marker 4.2. Which of those do you find challenging?
- What is the difference between a charism and a natural talent? Fill in with the following catechesis as needed:

  A charism is not a natural talent or acquired skill; it is a gift of grace. It is given by the Holy Spirit at Baptism/Confirmation. It cannot be inherited. Charisms enable us to be an agent of God’s purposes for others. It bears results above and beyond our natural abilities. When we use our charisms, we feel energized, like we’ve “found our place.” We are fruitful and effective without undue struggle. We experience joyful satisfaction. There are many different kinds of charisms. (From Called and Gifted Workshop, Catherine of Siena Institute)

Document Exposition
- Review and discuss Marker 5.1: The Laity, Marker 5.2: Priests and Deacons, Marker 5.3: Consecrated Life and Movements, Markers 5.4: Youth and Young Adults.

Discussion/Reflection
- In what way is the Archbishop challenging each of these groups?

Prayer/Reflection
- Consider your gifts and talents. Take a few minutes to reflect on how has God been using you as his instrument in the world. Journal your thoughts.
- Ask the Lord to show you an area of your giftedness that He wants you to develop and use for His glory.

Closing Prayer
Heavenly Father, do not let us neglect Your Spirit or the gifts You have given us. Give us courage to use these gifts and the humility to not use them for our glory, but for You and Your glory. Inspire the church in Detroit according to their gifts and state in life to Unleash the Gospel in Southeast Michigan. Help us see the good work You have ready for us and embrace that work with willingness and joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* If Modules are being taught consecutively, the opening and closing prayers can be omitted.
UNLEASH THE GOSPEL

Module 6 (Guidepost 6 and Guidepost 7)

Opening Prayer
- Suggested Prayer: Lord Jesus, we, your servants, stand ready to go out and invite others to the Great Feast. Give us courage, fortitude and patience as we bring the love of Jesus to others. Help us to make time to accompany your sons and daughters on the journey of faith. Give us your wisdom to know how to reach today’s families and meet them where they are at. Send us your Holy Spirit to bless our discussion and time together. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Document Exposition
- Together, read the opening paragraph of Guidepost 6.
- Traditionally we have said “open the doors and they will come.” The doors have been open, but they are not coming. Note the Archbishop’s directive to be more intentional and more personal.
- Healing – Important to recognize the extent of peoples’ brokenness. Everyone has wounds. Healing needs to be a part of the proclamation of the Gospel. Jesus heals today through healing prayer and through the sacramental life of the Church.

Discussion/Reflection
- Discuss how Guidepost 6 calls for a paradigm shift for the baptized person and for parish life.
- In the next Guidepost, the Archbishop outlines directives for helping our families reclaim their identity as domestic church. What is meant by “domestic church?”

Document Exposition
- Together, read the opening paragraph of Guidepost 7.

Discussion/Reflection
- Why is ministry to families so important to this evangelization initiative?
  - How does this passage stress the centrality of the love of God?
  - What would it look like if families really lived this out? How would it change the culture of the home?

Challenge
- Look at your own family. Pray for the Lord to touch those aspects of your family that need to grow in order to inculcate Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Prayer to Unleash the Gospel in the Archdiocese of Detroit
God our Father, you have called us to be witnesses to Jesus and have commissioned us to lead all people to encounter him. Send us your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds so that your will may be clear to us and that we may accept it. Dwell within our souls and make our hearts your own. Transform us into a band of joyful missionary disciples embracing the fruits of Synod 16 so as to share the good news of Jesus Christ in Southeast Michigan through joyful evangelization and service. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.

* If Modules are being taught consecutively, the opening and closing prayers can be omitted.
**OPENING PRAYER** (5 minutes)

- Read Matthew 5:13-16.
- Suggested prayer: *Lord Jesus, help us to be salt and light to our families, our friends, our co-workers, and those to whom we minister. Help us to have the qualities that will attract others to you. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we continue to read and study this pastoral letter. Bless our time together and let it be fruitful. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**DOCUMENT EXPOSITION** (10 minutes)

- Review and discuss Marker 8.1: The Joy of the Gospel, Marker 8.2: The One Sheep, Marker 8.3: The Parish as a Place of Welcome, Marker 8.4: Evangelical Charity.

**DISCUSSION/REFLECTION** (5 minutes)

- Discuss how the paradigm of Encounter, Grow, Witness can be applied to an individual, family and parish life.

**DOCUMENT EXPOSITION** (10 minutes)

- Together, read the opening paragraph of Guidepost 9.

**DISCUSSION/REFLECTION** (10 minutes)

- Discuss examples of how the paradigm of Encounter, Grow, Witness can be applied to an individual, family and parish life.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

- Proclaim Mark 4:13-20.
- Invite participants to offer intentions for the work that is ahead of us.
- Closing prayer: *Lord, let our hearts be made of rich soil to receive your word, accept it and bear much fruit. Give us the grace to make the paradigm shift that the Spirit is calling us to. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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* If Modules are being taught consecutively, the opening and closing prayers can be omitted.
Module 8 (Guidepost 10 and Conclusion)

Opening Prayer
- Read Ephesians 4:1-16. Suggested prayer: Lord Jesus, keep us united in our mission to serve the people in our parish boundaries. Help us to discover our gifts and discern our role in this initiative. Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, intercede for us as we pray. Hail Mary...

Discussion/Reflection
- Together, read the opening paragraph of Guidepost 10.
- Review and discuss Marker 10.1: The Star of Evangelization, Marker 10.2: The Role of Intercessors, Marker 10.3: Victory over Spiritual Opposition.

Discussion/Reflection
- What exactly is intercessory prayer? The following is a short catechesis on intercession: While prayers of petitions are prayers to ask, beseech, plead, invoke, entreat, cry out, for one’s needs, intercession is prayer of petition on behalf of others. Those who enter into intercessory prayer ministry make a long-term decision to pray on behalf of a person or group of people. The fruitfulness of evangelization depends upon graces called down through intercession. Consider the following umbrella analogy: Imagine a huge umbrella representing the Church. It has many spokes, each representing the different ministries of the Church. The pole is intercession. The pole stabilizes the spokes and enables them to do their job. Intercessors stabilize ministries because it is out of this deep prayer of intercession that God’s graces and His powers will flow to all ministries. Most people see the canopy but not the pole of the umbrella. Intercessory prayer may seem like a waste of time to some who are busy doing the other ministries. However, through this union in intercessory prayer, God shows us how to pray according to His heart’s desire and then He will shower down graces and power upon His people. (Adapted from Mother Nadine Brown, Interceding with Jesus, 12)
- What is the importance of intercessory prayer for our parish?
- What can we do to resist the evil one in the work ahead of us?

Document Exposition
- Read and discuss the Conclusion of the Pastoral Letter.
- Conduct an honorable closure giving each participant an opportunity to share what they have learned from the pastoral letter.

Prayer/Reflection
- Invite the group to enter into silence and reflect individually on the following question: Lord, what do you want to show me in light of this pastoral letter?
- Share your answers with one another.

Prayer to Unleash the Gospel
God our Father, you have called us to be witnesses to Jesus and have commissioned us to lead all people to encounter him. Send us your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds so that your will may be clear to us and that we may accept it. Dwell within our souls and make our hearts your own. Transform us into a band of joyful missionary disciples embracing the fruits of Synod 16 so as to share the good news of Jesus Christ in Southeast Michigan through joyful evangelization and service. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.
- Pastor/Leader prays individually over each participant for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Alternatively, pair up with another person and take turns to pray over one another (1-2 minutes). In your own words, ask the Holy Spirit to come and renew this person in His power and love. Allow the Holy Spirit to give you the words for the prayer. End with a Glory Be.

* If Modules are being taught consecutively, the opening and closing prayers can be omitted.