

Healthy Ministry Dynamics

Group Discussion:

1Corinthian 3:5-15 “5 What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one.6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. 7 Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. 9 For we are God’s co-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. 10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, 11 for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire [itself] will test the quality of each one’s work. 14 If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. 15 But if someone’s work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire.”

Group Discussion: In your experience...

1. What ministries are unsuccessful and why?
2. What ministries are successful and why?
3. What can sabotage a ministry?
4. What is necessary for a ministry to thrive?

Mission as defined in the CCC (glossary page 888)

1. **Trinitarian Missions:** To accomplish the divine plan of the triune God for the redemption of humanity, the Son and the Holy Spirit were “sent” into the world: hence the Trinitarian “missions” (Latin missus means “sent”) (257, 689).
2. **Apostolic Mission :** Just as he was sent by the Father, Jesus sent his Apostles into the world to continue his own saving mission (858).
3. **Church as Mission:** Thus the Church is missionary by its very nature, continuing the mission or work of Christ through the Holy Spirit, according to the plan of God. This apostolic mission of the Church is fulfilled according to their different states of life by the clergy, laity, and religious (849, 863, 913).

The Mission

Mission	Primary	Secondary
The Sender		
The Mission & Plan		
The Sent		
The Recipient		
The Enemies		

1. The Sender

CCC 221 “But St. John goes even further when he affirms that “God is love”: God's very being is love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange.”

2. The Mission

Matthew 28:19-20 “Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

3. The Sent

St. Teresa of Avila “Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world”

Group Discussion:

2Corinthians 4:5-11 “5 For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus. 6 For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of [Jesus] Christ. V [The Paradox of the Ministry.] 7 But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”

Group Discussion:

- a. What stands out to you from this passage?
- b. What is, “The Paradox of the Ministry” this passage presents?

Healthy Self: “We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained...” (2Corinthians 4:8)

Some Priest quoting a nun “Whatever is not transformed is transmitted.”

Connected to God

- Prayer
- Sacraments

Humility

- St. Thomas Aquinas “Humility is truth”
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux “Humility is seeing ourselves as we really are.”
- David & Goliath 1Samuel 17:32-51

Boundaries & Coworkers in the vineyard

- “No” can be your, “yes” to God.
- **African proverb** “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together”
- Disposition of a Disciple
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

4. The Recipient

1 Corinthians 9:19- 22 “Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law—to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law—though I am not outside God’s law but within the law of Christ—to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some.”

Ministry is:

- For those you minister to
- Inward
- Outward: **always oriented to the periphery**

5. The Enemies

- a. The devil & the wicked
- b. Useful idiots
- c. Sometimes ourselves

Romans 8:31 “If God is for us, who can be against us?”