

# PARISH CULTURE ESSENTIALS: ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP

At Amazing Parish, we believe that active discipleship is rooted in three essential elements: Daily Conversion, Missionary Action and Transformational Community. For a parish to be passionately forming disciples, the leaders of the parish must first be practicing these critical behaviors.

These aren't steps to follow in sequence. Instead, they function like a three-stranded cord. Alone they have value, but together they form a structure that can carry the weight of the mission.

## Daily Conversion

A disciple has **made the decision to follow Jesus and continues to drop their nets on a daily basis by pursuing a life of radical holiness.** This means that they have experienced a deep calling from the Father about His plan for their life. They are regularly making costly sacrifices to grow closer to God and deeper in their faith- it's not a comfortable Catholicism. Because of their own encounter with Christ, they live as a countercultural and joyful witness to the world - living as a Christian in today's world means living differently.

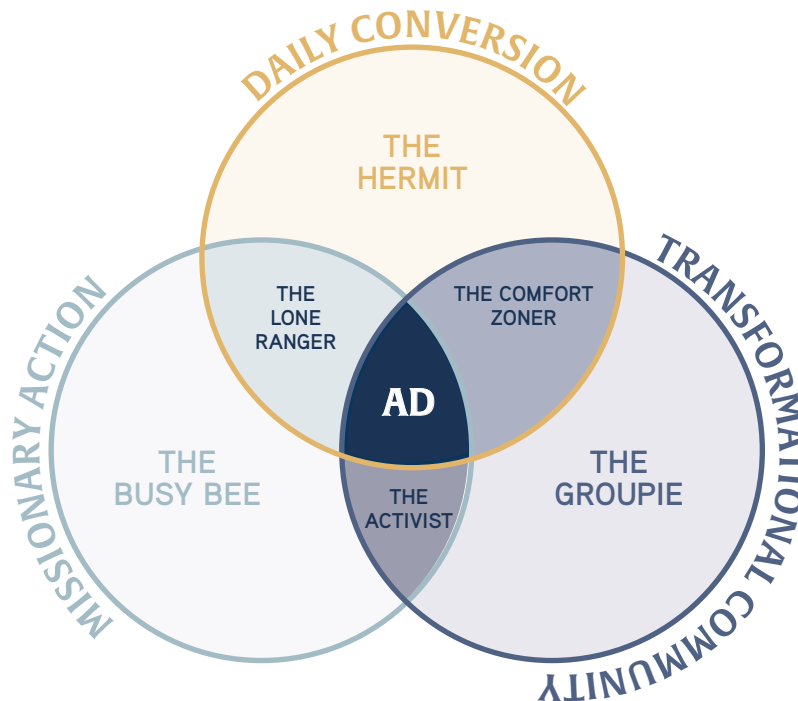
## Missionary Action

A disciple **takes initiative to regularly share Jesus in word and deed with others in personal ways.** They do this because they have a sense of urgency around the power and primacy of the Gospel - they are convicted that everyone needs to encounter Jesus. They recognize that conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit - we can't evangelize on our own. They are committed to evangelization through both proclamation of the Gospel and service to others - but they don't just show up to programs or write checks to charity - they are personally involved because the Gospel is inherently relational.

## Transformational Community

A disciple **grows in faith through authentic, consistent relationships where they are known, encouraged, and challenged to imitate Jesus more fully.** This means that they are engaged in regular conversations with others that are rooted in healthy vulnerability & accountability about holiness and mission. The fruit of these relationships is that they are not only personally transformed, but the community they live in is transformed so that it impacts relationships beyond parish property and church contexts. When these types of relationships become the norm, our community becomes a Church committed to excellence in mission.

# PARISH CULTURE ESSENTIALS: ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP (CONT.)



## The Hermit

A committed follower seeking personal holiness but missing the essential growth that comes from mission and community.

## The Comfort Zoner

A faithful believer who grows through fellowship but avoids the challenge of reaching beyond those who already share their faith; often isolated from “the real world”.

## The Groupie

A community-focused participant who enjoys belonging but has not experienced the deeper conversion that leads to mission.

## The Activist

Unites others around causes and ideas, but without deep conversion their mission is driven more by ideology than by Christ.

# PARISH CULTURE ESSENTIALS: ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP (CONT.)

## The Busy Bee

Constantly active in church programs but missing the conversion and deep relational connections that fuel true discipleship.

## The Lone Ranger

A passionate evangelizer whose mission is limited by the lack of accountability and sharpening that comes from community.

## NOTES

# ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

## STEP 1

Review the components of Active Discipleship:

<b>DAILY CONVERSION</b>  A disciple has made the decision to follow Jesus and continues to drop their nets on a daily basis by pursuing a life of radical holiness.	<b>MISSIONARY ACTION</b>  A disciple takes initiative to regularly share Jesus in word and deed with others in personal ways.	<b>TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNITY</b>  A disciple grows in faith through authentic, consistent relationships where they are known, encouraged, and challenged to imitate Jesus more fully.
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## STEP 2

Assess yourself in each of the categories of Active Discipleship, ranking them in order from strongest (1) to weakest (3):

1: \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_ 3: \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 3

Write down a commitment to help you grow in each area of active discipleship and share it with an accountability partner. Schedule regular meetings to help foster consistent growth.

**Development Plan:**