



Part 1

Here is a sneak preview of our new “Discipleship Commitment” ceremony. It is a reworking of the old “New Member Commitment” ceremony found in the maroon song book. Like the original, it emphasizes the values of worship, formation, charity, service and stewardship, which are core biblical and ecclesial values for parish life. We will use the new ceremony periodically, beginning this September.

All: Born again in Christ by Baptism, we share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit given to the Church on Pentecost. As members of the Body of Christ in the Catholic Church of Saint Paul, let us be of one mind and heart, and hold these things in common:

Parish: We will be faithful to the Lord’s Day and be strengthened in Christ through sacraments, prayer and joyful praise.

New Members: *We will pray daily and worship regularly with our parish community.*

Parish: We will walk together in the light of God’s Word and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

New Members: *We will continue our formation in Scripture and our Faith, ready to answer anyone who seeks a reason for our hope.*

Parish: We will fulfill the law of Christ by loving others as He has loved us. What we do for our brothers and sisters, we do for Christ.

New Members: *We will be attentive to the needs of our fellow parishioners and the needs of those beyond our parish doors.*

Parish: We will build up our parish in love as the Spirit equips us for the work of ministry.

New Members: *We will exercise the gifts given to us by the Spirit of God for building up the Body of Christ.*

Parish: We will honor the Lord and support the Church by our trusting faith and our financial offerings.

New Members: *We will witness to God’s faithfulness and His presence in our lives through our grateful hearts and generous response.*

All: We are His priestly people in the Church of Saint Paul. We are open to His Spirit and faithful to His Church. With all our hearts and all our strength we will proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord!

(Over)

Part 2

Church doors are both practical and symbolic in their purpose. “Open wide the doors to Christ!” and “Crossing the Threshold of Hope” are phrases that we associate with the life of grace and our life in the Church. Church doors bring us into the assembly and the liturgy of God, into a sacred space and sacred encounters.

Over the summer I have been re-imagining the look of the two main entryways into our building. I would like to be more intentional about how we design and use these spaces. Certainly, as soon as our finances permit, we will re-carpet the entryway from the “baptismal font doors” leading to the place of liturgy in the main sanctuary. This entryway space has great potential for inspiration as we journey into the assembly and out again into the community. I would also like to incorporate more images of our parish community life to highlight seasonal and special events, as well as be more selective about our use of information racks and tables.

You will soon see an attractive display board with new “Encounter” and “Volunteer” information cards, replacing the yearly “time and talent” forms. This will be a new and easily accessible process to communicate our many ministry and service opportunities.

Over time, I hope that our main entryways into our sanctuary will be both useful and beautiful, fulfilling their potential both as useful avenues of concourse and as signs leading us to ever deeper union with Christ and His Church.

- Fr. Jim