



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
**DENVER**

# Welcome!

Please take this  
brief survey as  
you come in  
(should take 5  
minutes!)



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The purpose of this is to be able to present the new Archbishop with a clear snapshot of what our parishes look like with various ministries. Thank you for helping us with this project ☺ we are looking for about 70 parishes to respond for an accurate representation of the diocese



# Evangelization & OCIA Workshop

Parish Involvement in OCIA & Evangelization

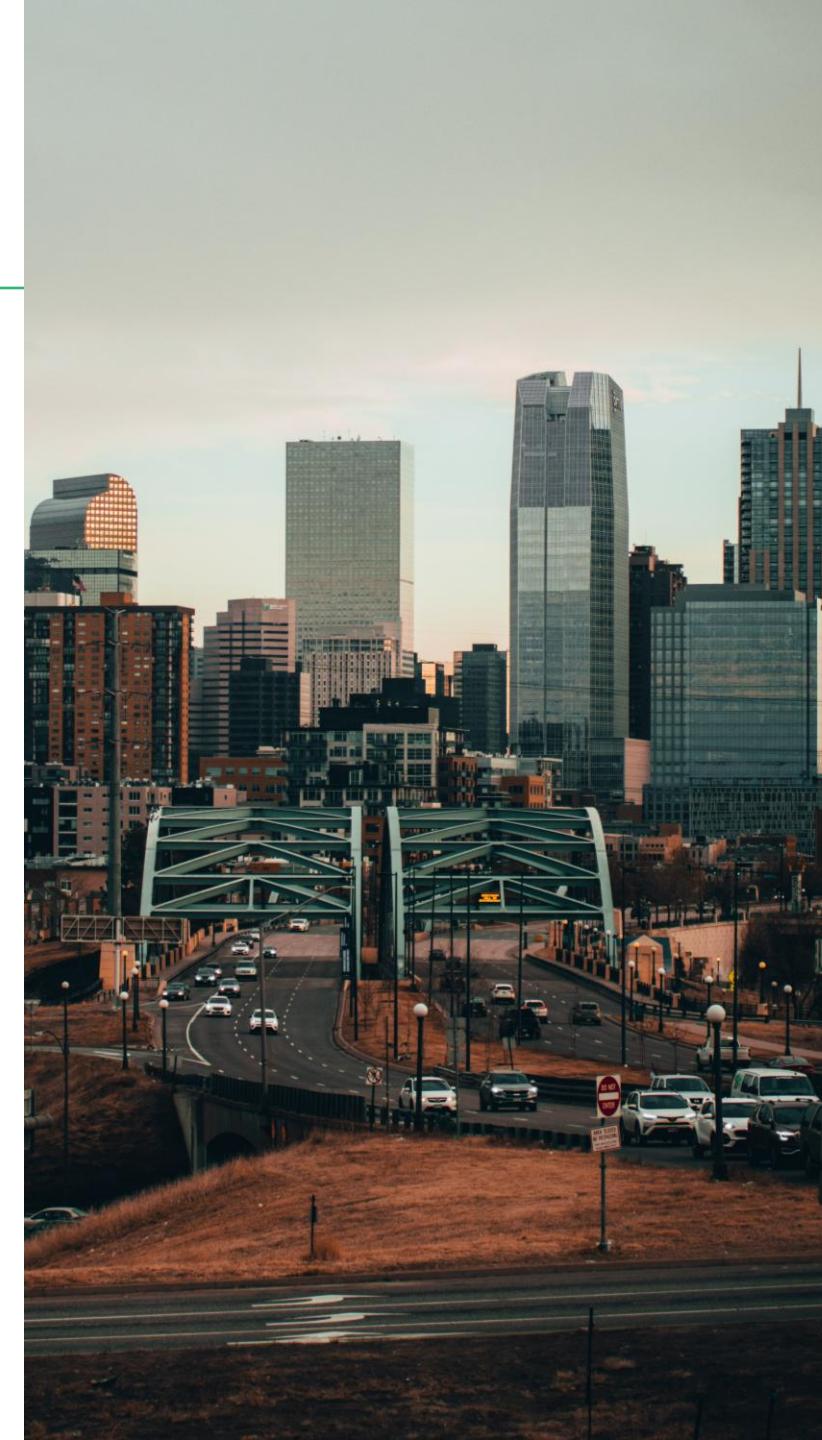
16 October 2025



# Agenda

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- Opening prayer
- Save the Date: OCIA Expectations Meeting
- From Christendom to Apostolic Mission
- The “Upper Half” of the Hourglass
- Break
- Identifying Support for our Ministries
- Lunch



# Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30 ( St MMA Memorial)

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**At that time Jesus answered:**

**"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
for although you have hidden these things  
from the wise and the learned  
you have revealed them to the childlike.**

**Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.**

**All things have been handed over to me by my Father.  
No one knows the Son except the Father,  
and no one knows the Father except the Son  
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.**

**"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.**

**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart;  
and you will find rest for yourselves.**

**For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."**



# Save the Date: December 4 from 9 am-noon

- Transition expectation is still set for January 1, 2026
- Joint meeting with the Liturgy Office
- Invite your priests and deacons involved in OCIA, especially if they have questions!!

\*you must have your Rite of Entrance to signify the beginning of the catechumenate this fall to be baptized at Easter 2026!



# Parish Involvement:

What do we mean by parish involvement?  
How do we equip them?

# From Christendom to Apostolic Mission

## Needs of the Church

Maintenance of the socio-political structure; a need “to deepen, consolidate, nourish, and make ever more pure the faith of those who are already called believers” –Paul VI

“For apostolic witness and the building of a distinctively Christian cultural vision and way of life”

## The Role of the Laity

General expectation of the population is rather low– those who are inclined to do something *more* enter religious life with a particular charism

“Every Christian is by necessity a witness and an evangelist; the role of the laity and the importance of lay holiness emerge with greater clarity as necessary for the Church to complete her mission”

# Did the Role of the Laity Change?

## **The Role of the Laity (not exhaustive):**

- Universal Call to Holiness: Regardless of the era, the laity are called to pursue holiness and live out their faith through various vocations.
- Missionary Activity: The laity are always called to be witnesses of Christ, sharing the Gospel through their actions and words.
- Contributors to Communal Life: In all times, the Church relies on the diverse gifts and presence of the laity to enrich and build up the Body of Christ.

# Particular Manifestation of the Laity's Role

## Laity in Christendom

- Embodiment of Christian Life in Daily Living
- Mediators and Integrators of Culture
- Sustain the Church's Structure

## Laity in the Apostolic Age

- Active Participation and Evangelization
- Witness through Martyrdom (Literal and Social)
- Charitable Works

# Greater Involvement in the Mission is Crucial

“to deepen, consolidate, nourish, and make ever more pure the faith of those who are already called believers”

**vs**

“For apostolic witness and the building of a distinctively Christian cultural vision and way of life”

Resource providers

**vs**

Recruiting, forming, organize, communicate

School/cultural center model

**vs**

Base camp model

# Community Center Model vs Base Camp Model

**Community Center Function:** to provide a space for social interaction, education, wellness, and support services, fostering community cohesion and enhancing the quality of life for those in a particular community.

*Requires: managing staff and members, structuring ways for services to be provided, welcoming newcomers, and meeting the needs of the people*

**Base Camp Function:** to provide a secure and efficient environment for deploying forces. It serves as a base for operations, ensuring that forces are well-supplied, sheltered, and able to communicate effectively. Base camps are essential for extending and maintaining operational reach, projecting and sustaining combat power, and managing the logistics and sustainment of forces. They are vital in ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of service members in the theater of operations.

*Requires: accompaniment of missional disciples, extending reach of resources, projecting and sustaining formation of disciples, in addition to maintenance of resources and accessibility of resources*

# How Does This Impact Your Role at the Parish?

the “professional Catholic”



Discerning and identifying giftedness in the laity of the parish, assisting them in understanding their unique missional call in this time

teaching the laity of the parish to give a deepened understanding of faith



Forming parishioners to live out their missional call both generally (in their faith) and specifically (in their mission)

Organize the reception of sacraments to nourish the people

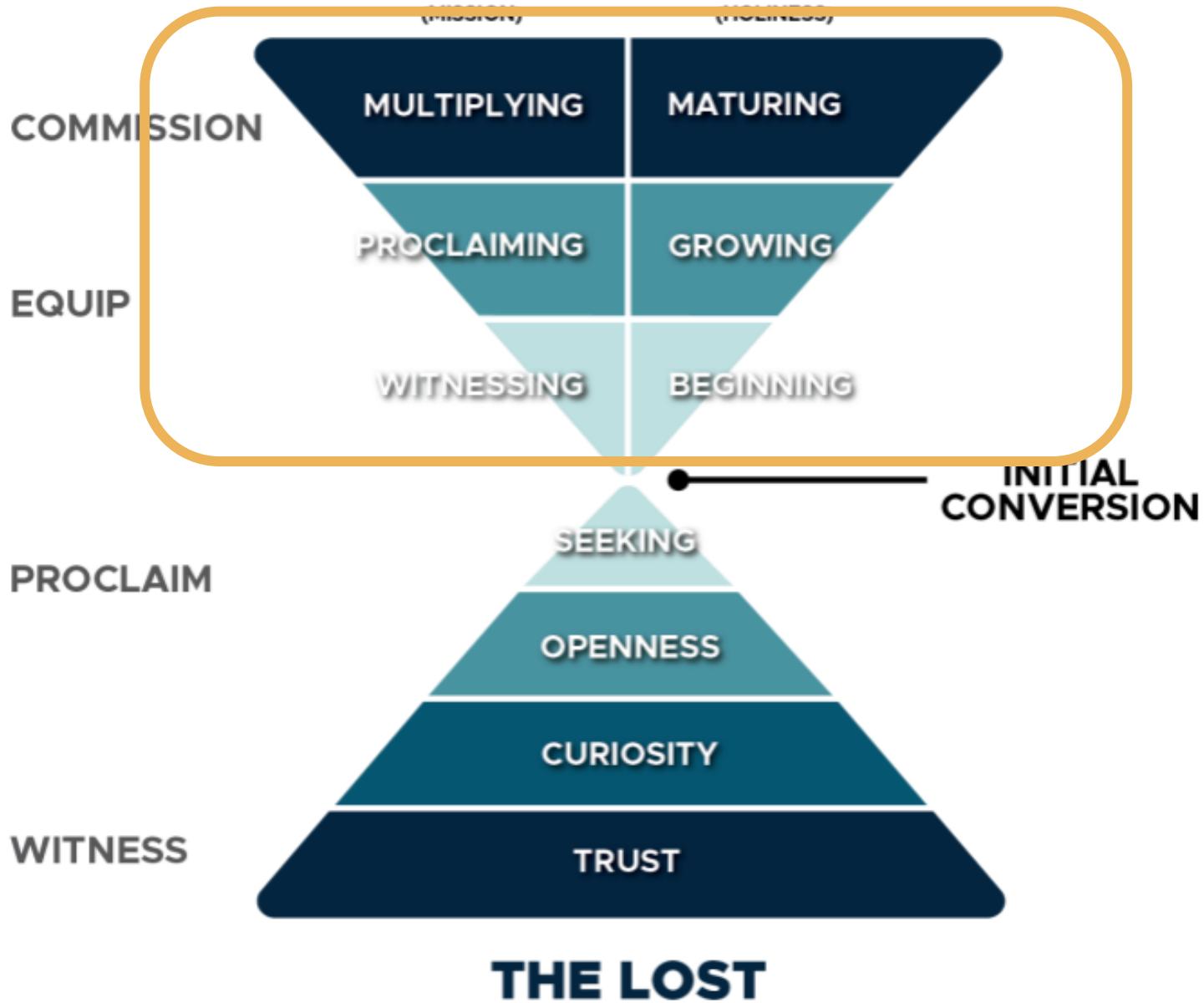


Organizing and communicating with the faithful laity living out their missional call

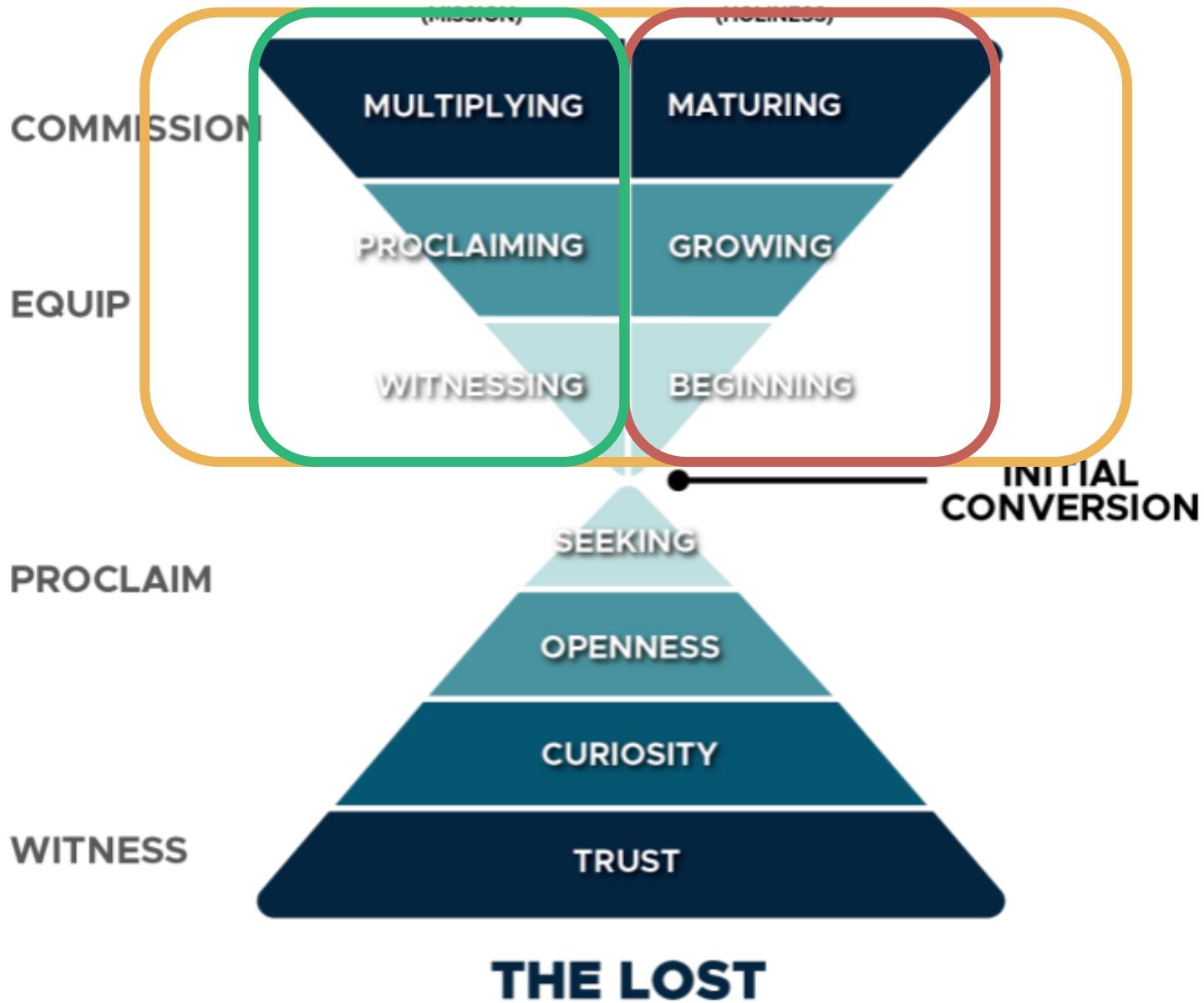
# Table Discussion:

1. Have you read the *Christendom to Apostolic Mission* book before? If so, what were your own thoughts as related to the two modes of ministerial activity?
2. What challenges you about thinking differently about ministry in an apostolic age? How does this shift your view of your role at the parish?
3. How does this reality impact how you see volunteers in your ministry (or what their involvement could be?)

# MISSIONARY DISCIPLE



# MISSIONARY DISCIPLE



# Holiness and Mission on the Hourglass

## Beginning:

- Go to mass regularly
- Daily prayer and able to see what God is doing in their life
- Avoiding temptations
- Connecting to a Christian community

## Witnessing:

- Open about their faith
- Able to share their testimony
- Witness through the way they live their lives
- Build trust and stoke curiosity in Christ

# Holiness and Mission on the Hourglass

## Growing:

- Desire greater intimacy with Jesus
- Growing trust in the Magisterium
- Greater articulation in their relationship with God

## Proclaiming:

- Understand their missionary identity and are open to God's callings for them
- Able to invite others to put Christ at the center of their lives
- Inviting those that are open to seek, and those that seek to conversion

# Holiness and Mission on the Hourglass

## Maturing:

- Deep and mature relationship with Jesus
- Personal responsibility for growth
- Resourceful in finding new ways to deepen relationship with God

## Multiplying:

- Equipping others for the mission
- Training others to share the Gospel

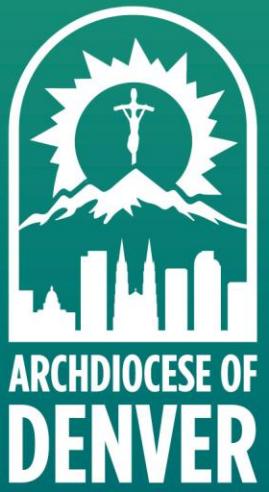
# Break

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**Didn't do the  
survey yet? It  
would be v cool of  
you to fill it out:**





# Applying this to Ministry

warm bodies, “warm bodies” volunteers  
for any and all the work that  
to get done” with ownership of  
called by the church. “If they have been  
them any  
any have been  
their mission

# What can a “Missional Identity” look like?

# Witnessing

What witnesses do you already have in your OCIA Team (or Evang. Team)? Can you think of any witnesses who are not currently involved?

How are these witnesses being equipped and formed for this mission? What formation do they need for their role? Who is walking with them?

What particular mission or role can you invite them into, if they are not currently in a role?

**OR** If they are currently in a particular mission or role, how can you give them greater ownership or understanding of this role as a missional call?

# Proclaiming

What “proclaimers” do you already have in your OCIA Team (or Evang. Team?) Can you think of any witnesses who are growing into proclaimers?

How are these proclaimers being equipped and formed for this mission? What formation do they need for their particular role? Who is walking with them?

If they are currently in a particular mission or role, how can you give them greater ownership or understanding of this role as a missional call? What witnesses can they accompany?

# Multiplying

Do you see yourself as a multiplier? Why or why not?

What would be an OCIA Coordinator's role look like as a multiplier?

Three key responsibilities:

How can WE support YOU as multipliers?

# Save the Date: Evangelization & OCIA

## Upcoming Workshops/Meetings:

**December 4- OCIA Expectations for  
Jan 1, 2026**

**January 22- Expedited Adult Confirmation**

**March 19- Mystagogy**

**May 21- Engaging OCIA in the Summer  
Months**

## Other Events:

**Parish Leader Retreat- November 13-14**

Please take the  
OCIA/Evang Survey:



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