



# MOMENTUM

The Accompaniment Symposium

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*Faithfully Ministering to and with Youth and Families in the Year Ahead*

**†NFCYM**

# Creating a Parish Culture of Accompaniment

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# OVERVIEW

## Part 1 (*Brian*)

- Define Christian Culture and Organizational Culture
- Identify 5 Steps for Shifting Your Parish Culture
- Identify 3 Ways for Helping Young People Act as the Protagonist of their Faith / Partner in the Church's Mission

## Part 2 (*Tracey*)

- Implications of a Meaningful Community of Accompaniment
- Church Gathered: Purposes and Actions of this Community
- Church Sent: What Does our New Community Do?
  - Encounters with God in Others
  - How is your Parish a Good Neighbor in the Community?





# Christian Culture

“Christian Culture is born from the awareness of the centrality of Jesus Christ and of his Gospel, which transforms the life of humanity.”

- *Directory for Catechesis*, 102

“... a new understanding is needed of Christian culture, a culture of encounter, which has the ability to unify, allowing the Gospel to unleash forces of true humanity, peace, and justice.”

- *Directory for Catechesis*, 103





# Organizational Culture

Organizational culture is the collection of values, expectations, and practices that guide and inform the actions of all members in an organization. Think of it as the collection of traits that make your parish what it is.





# **Five Steps for Shifting Your Parish Culture**

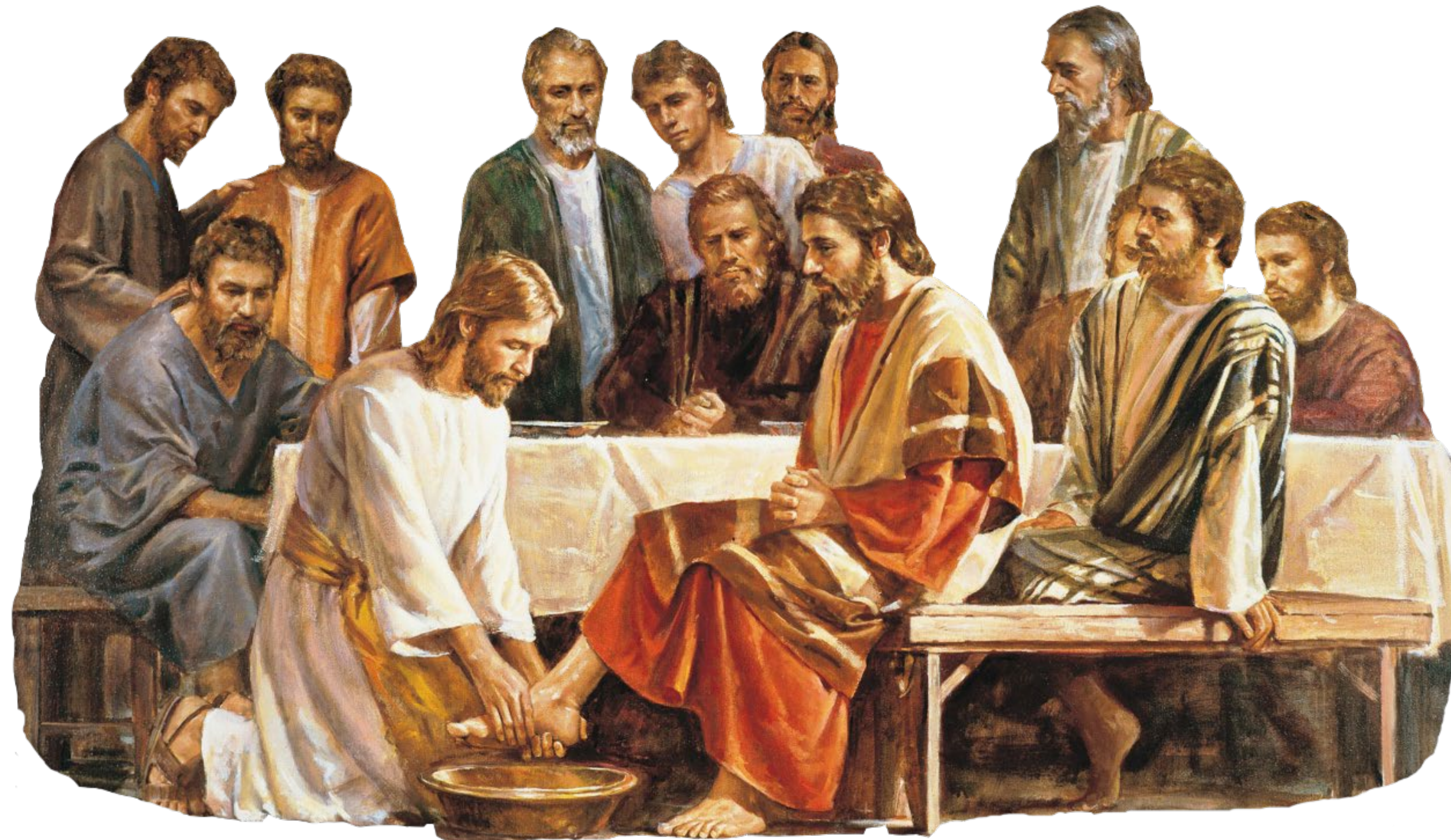




# Identify Your Parish Core Values

- Core Values are not superfluous
- They should epitomize Christian culture
- They should be relationally driven
- They should be mission driven

## STEP #1





# Refocus Leadership

- Foster a Spirit of Synodality
- Influence > Authority
- Clearly define roles and expectations
- Allow space for various leadership styles

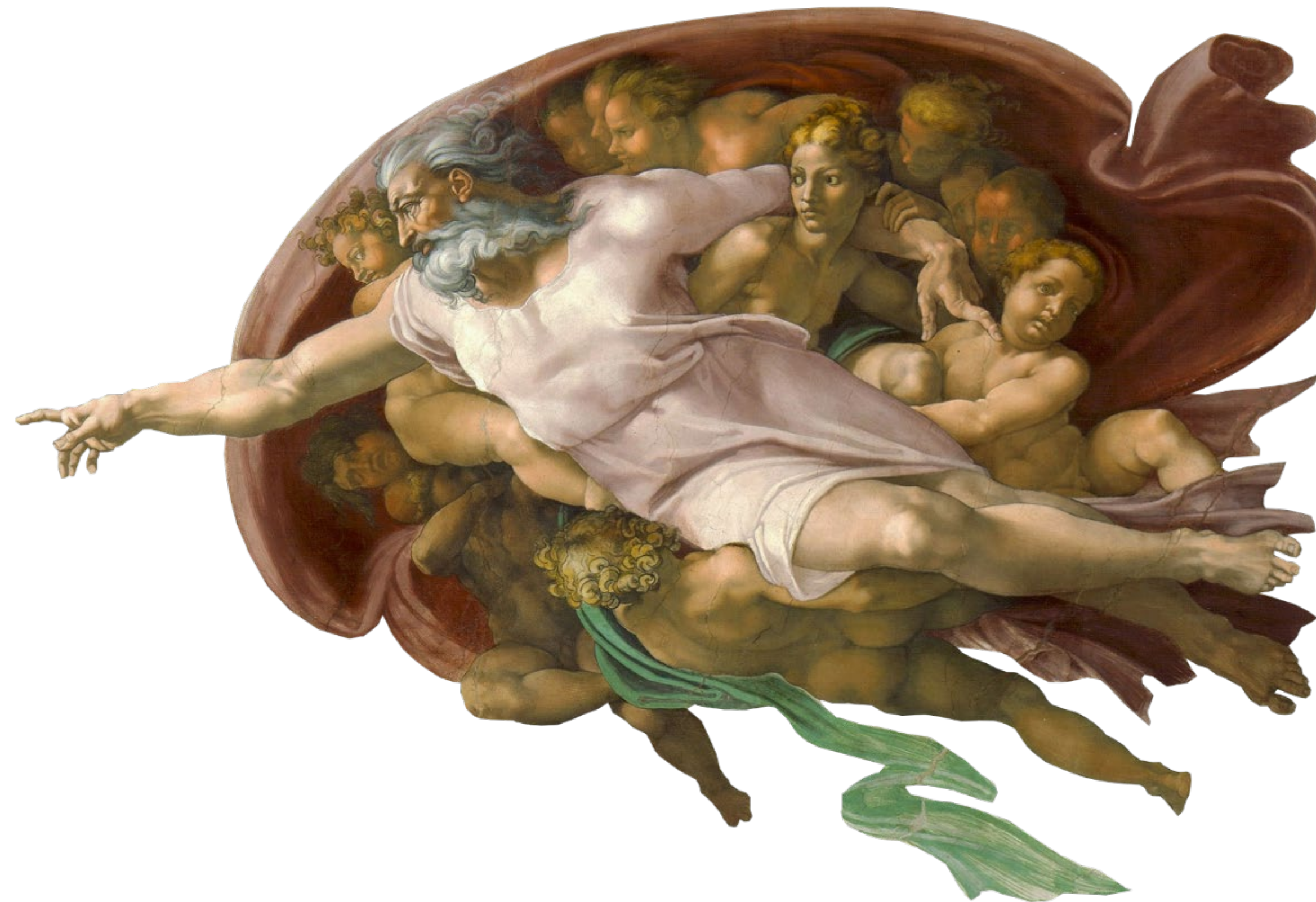
STEP #2





# Critically Assess Your Parish

- What's working well?
- Identify 3-5 strengths to leverage
- What needs improvement?
- Identify 3-5 areas of change



**STEP #3**



# Link Behaviors to Objectives

- What your values look like in action
- Includes personal and parish behaviors
- Behavior is what the uninitiated sees
- Behaviors influence mindsets



**STEP #4**




# Constantly Ask and Listen


- Ask if you are on the right track
- Listen to what people are saying/not saying
- Ask what your people are looking for
- Listen to the Holy Spirit's guidance

**STEP #5**





# **Three Ways to Help Young People Act as Protagonists**





# #1

## Help them to Recognize

As Jesus did on the road to Emmaus, invite young people to share with you the events they are going through and help them to recognize how those events are shaping their life and their faith.





# #2

## Help them to Interpret

As Jesus did on the road to Emmaus, help young people to see how the events of their life can be interpreted in the light of sacred scripture.





# #3

## Allow them to Choose

As Jesus did on the road to Emmaus, do not force or coerce a young person into a particular decisions, rather allow them to freely choose how they will move forward in their life as a disciple of Christ.





# Implications of a Community That Accompanies

A Church Gathered and Sent





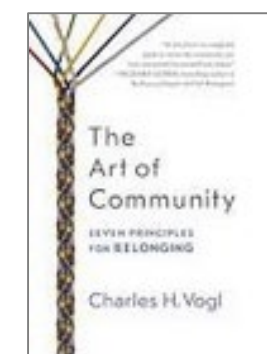
# Church: Gathered & Sent

Gathered

## Typical Parish

- Staff--ministries
  - New Evangelization

## How We Gather Matters



- Peter Block *Community: The structure of belonging*
- Charles Vogt: *The Art of Community: Seven principles for belonging*





# What does it Look Like ?

***“Challenge: To Transform the isolation and self-interest within our communities into connectedness and caring for the whole” (Block, 1)***

## Behaviors (Curriculum of Church)

- Implicit
- Explicit &
- Null Behaviors







# Church Sent

What Does a Beloved Community Do?



## Accompaniment: Openness to God's Presence

- “IT”
  - Propels Us Out
  - Our experience of God in Others
    - We are Changed - called to Action
- We Are Church Sent

## Power of Story: AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD





**We Are  
Changed**

# Encountering God in and *with* Others

## Examples:

- Mark 7: 24-30
- Fr. Greg Boyle
- My Story



**What does this all mean?**

# Questions

## What Will You Do?

1. What first steps will you make to transform your parish into a community that accompanies young people?
2. How have you been changed by a young person's story?  
How, then, are you (and your community) called to respond, called to *ACT* in light of your encounter?