



BRIDGE-BUILDERS *for a*
thriving MISSION





THE INITIATIVE

Bridge-Builders for a Thriving Mission:

Co-responsibility in the changing context of parish life and ministry helps to nurture the mission of the newly formed Area Catholic Communities (ACCs), strengthen intercultural sensitivity and develop emerging pastoral leaders. The ultimate purpose is to strengthen community life so we can help people deepen their relationships with God, and enhance their connections with each other and our neighbors.

VITAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A THRIVING MISSION

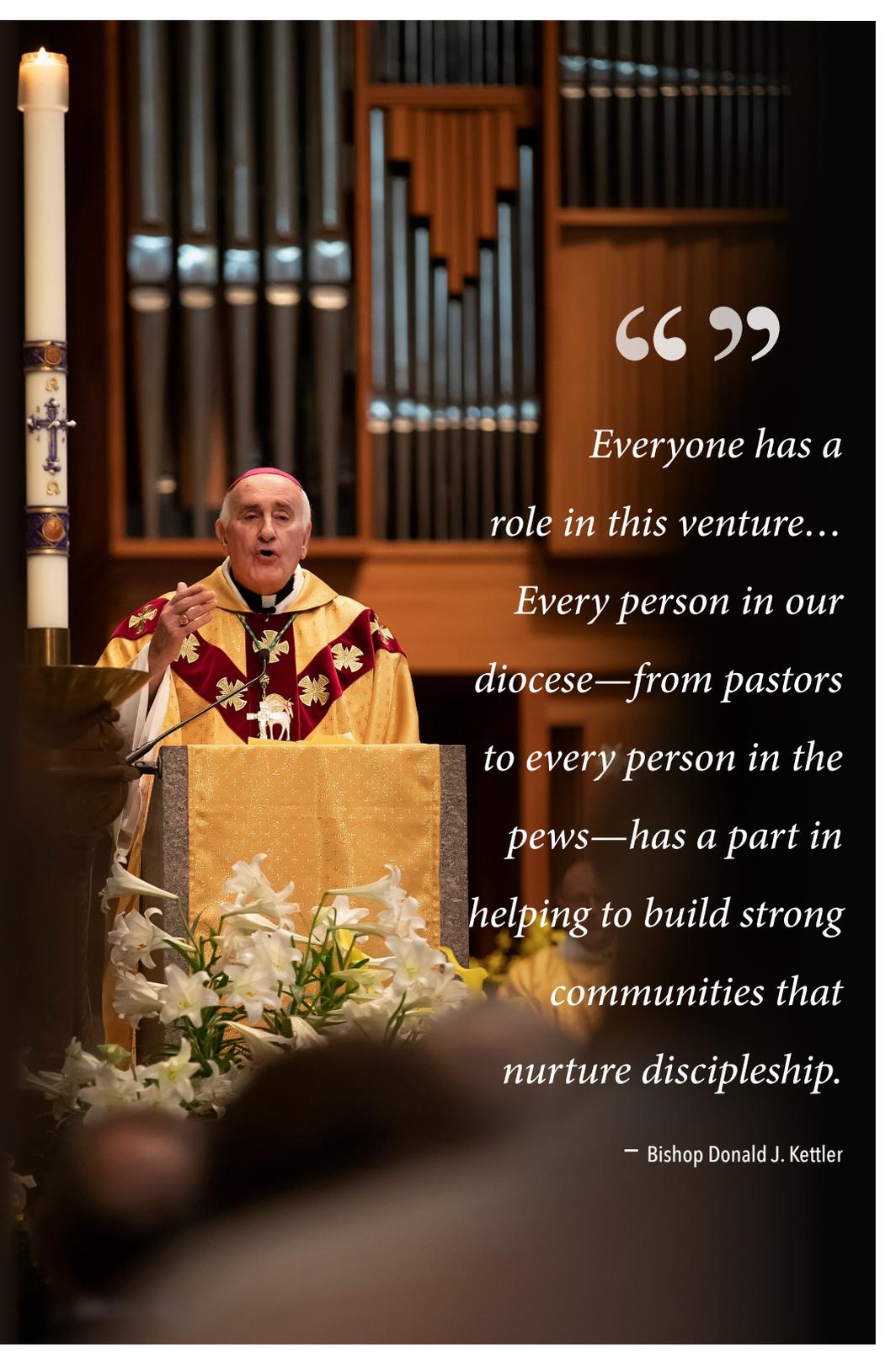
There is no one way to develop a thriving mission. In establishing the new Area Catholic Communities, Bishop Donald J. Kettler, wrote: *"Everyone has a role in this venture... Every person in our diocese—from pastors to every person in the pews—has a part in helping to build strong communities that nurture discipleship."* This **Bridge-Builders for a Thriving Mission initiative** dedicates human, formation and financial resources to developing these vital characteristics:

Bridge-building between parishes within the ACCs and developing intercultural sensitivity, particularly between diverse people, and collaborating with the wider community to serve people on the margins.

Relationship-building grounded in spiritual practices that make us more human, humane and alive by enlivening respect, humility, trustworthiness, and love for others.

Pastoral planning rooted in prayer and discernment as well as accurate information so that decisions are fair, transparent, and grounded in the Church's mission.

Gifts discernment to help parishioners develop a sense of calling and identify their gifts for service in their daily lives, the ACC and the larger community. Leadership development through ongoing formation for ministry staffs as well as identifying new leaders.



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— Bishop Donald J. Kettler



MISSION HAS ITS SOURCE IN LITURGICAL
WORSHIP AND AIMS TOWARD THE FLOURISHING
OF LIFE IN COMMUNITY.

DEEPENING OUR PRAYER LIFE

The Return of the Ancient Christian Practices

CONVERSATIO SMALL GROUPS

are gatherings of 8-12 people into small faith communities, committing to a common way of life, and meeting monthly to support each other in living out the Gospel.

LECTIO AND VISIO DIVINA

foster listening to God's Word "with the ear of the heart," and seeing "with the eyes of faith."

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

is expressed as welcoming all as Christ (Rule of Benedict, 53:1). Hospitality is a necessary practice for building bridges across the parishes, with new neighbors, and with those in need in the larger community.

CONVERSATIO MORUM

is a reminder that conversion is the lifelong path of discipleship and is never completed once and for all (Rule of Benedict, 58). It requires the practices of humility, forgiveness, and charity as we make our way forward.

DISCERNMENT OF CHARISMS AND GIFTS

provides people ways to discover how to serve and share in the co-responsibility of the community.



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Co-responsibility demands a change in mindset especially concerning the role of lay people in the Church. They should not be regarded as “collaborators” of the clergy, but, rather, as people who are really “co-responsible” for the Church’s being and acting. It is therefore important that a mature and committed laity be consolidated, which can make its own specific contribution to the ecclesial mission with respect for the ministries and tasks that each one has in the life of the Church and always in cordial communion with the bishops.

- Pope Benedict XVI

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Lord, launch us on the adventure of building bridges and tearing down walls.

- Pope Francis

RESOURCES

Formation for Thriving

Twice a year teams of up to eight people from three ACCs will gather for five days over three months at the Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse. The gathering will focus on guiding each ACC to discern their mission given their new structure and circumstances. The three ACC teams will study and investigate their local community, learn more about immigrants and

people from other cultures in the area, and identify ways to serve the local community. From this learning, the ACC will identify a project to address a situation and have an opportunity to apply for up to \$1,500 to fund the project. Each ACC will build on the skills of collaborating, learning, listening, negotiating, and deciding on a ministry they can address together.

REFLECTION PROMPTS TO IDENTIFY A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

- + A project that we have already identified that requires further development...
- + An experience we would like to have...
- + A person we would like to learn from...
- + A relationship we would like to strengthen in the community...
- + A charism we would like to grow in...
- + A wrong we would like to right...
- + If money were no object, we would like to...
- + We will regret not doing...

1

THRIVING RESOURCE TEAMS FORMATION PROGRAM

Each year 12 individuals will be invited to attend a five-day training, which includes (a) the vision and key elements of a thriving learning community, (b) a theology of ecclesial co-responsibility, (c) skill building for interpersonal communication, intercultural competency, conflict management, and systems theory, and (d) approaches to coaching Thriving Learning Communities.

2

THRIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES

A small group of people gather to explore a pastoral concern or a new 'big idea,' discover its strengths and challenges, design a way forward, and implement a new process or ministry program. They will be able to apply for up to \$1,500 to support this process.

3

DISCERNMENT OF CHARISMS AND GIFTS INVENTORIES

Facilitators are available to provide an inventory and reflection on *Clifton Strengths®: Creating Strength-Based Parishes* and *Catherine of Siena Institute: Called & Gifted Discernment Process for Discipleship.*®

5

INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INVENTORY

Assess one's capacity to navigate differences across cultures, ie., ethnicity, gender, workstyle, family structures, varying abilities.

6

SUSTAINING A HEALTHY MINISTERIAL WORKPLACE

Training and self-assessment guides are available to work with pastoral leaders on creating resiliency with pastoral leadership teams: *Work-life and Burnout Inventory*® and self-assessment on *Covenant Relationships in the Workplace.*

4

APPRENTICESHIPS IN CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

Guides are available for people and groups desiring formation in the Christian practices: *conversatio* (lifelong learning), *lectio* and *visio divina*, discernment of charisms and gifts, radical hospitality, and *conversatio morum* (reconciliation and healing)



PARTNERSHIPS

Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary
 Diocese of Saint Cloud
 Saint John's Abbey Center for Latino Ministry, Casa San Benito

GRATITUDE

| Funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc's Thriving Congregations Initiative

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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