



CENTRE FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP

A work of the Missionaries of God's Love

Missionary Discipleship II: MD in the thought of Pope Francis

A Missionary Disciple

- Has encountered Jesus thru Spirit
- Has decided to follow Jesus
- Is growing in faith and love
- Experiences joy through faith
- Desires God
- Desires to read the Scriptures
- Seeks the sacraments
- Motivated by love
- Wants Christian community
- Cares for the poor and suffering
- Wants others to encounter Jesus
- Listens to the Church and her wisdom

Catechized and Sacramentalized

- Head knowledge only
- Is culturally Catholic – no decision
- Is not growing in faith and love
- No joy from faith
- Desires things from God
- No desire to read Scripture
- Not interested in sacraments
- Motivation is duty, guilt, obligation
- Private Christian
- Personal possessions over care for the poor
- No desire for others to encounter Jesus
- Picks and Chooses from Church Teaching



M D in the Church's Teaching

"The Christian faith is, above all, conversion to Jesus Christ, full and sincere adherence to his person and the decision to walk in his footsteps.

Faith is a personal encounter with Jesus Christ making of oneself a disciple of him.

This demands a permanent commitment to think like him, to judge like him and to live as he lived.

In this way the believer unites himself/[herself] to the community of disciples and appropriates the faith of the Church."



Missionary Discipleship in Pope Francis' Thought

- *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG) 2013 – Post-Apostolic Exhortation on the New Evangelization (Synod called by BXVI, Francis writes document)
- Charter document for Francis' papacy
- Behind EG is the *Aparecida* Document (2007) published by Episcopal Conferences of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAM)
- Jorge Bergoglio was major author of *Aparecida* (*Ap*)
- In *Ap* we find the term “missionary disciples”



Aparecida – Missionary Disciples

- Is a response to the person of Jesus: they are attracted by his words, miracles, kindness – the “stunning impact of his person” (Ap 21).
- The result of being disciples and missionaries of Jesus Christ is joy (Ap 28)
- Missionary Disciples are called to holiness (Ap 129)



Mission flows out of Discipleship

“When awareness of belonging to Christ grows by reason of the gratitude and joy that it produces, the eagerness to communicate the gift of this encounter to all also grows.

The mission is not limited to a program or project, but it is sharing the experience of the event of the encounter with Christ, witnessing it and announcing it from person to person, from community to community, and from the Church to the ends of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8)” Ap 146



Benedict XVI to the CELAM Bishops

*“Discipleship and mission are like the two sides of a single coin:
when the disciple is in love with Christ,
he cannot stop proclaiming to the world
that only in him do we find salvation”*

Ap 146



Missionary Discipleship is an Ecclesial Reality (Ap 155)

- Missionary Discipleship takes place in the communion of the Church
- The basis of this is the Trinitarian communion
- The Church is therefore called to be a communion in love



Aparecida's Process of Formation of Missionary Disciples

Ap 278

1
Encounter
with
Christ

2
Conversion

3
Disciple-
ship

4
Communion

5
Mission

Aparecida's Process of Formation of Missionary Disciples

1 Encounter with Christ

Needs to be constantly renewed
by testimony,
proclamation of the kerygma,
community's missionary activity

only out of the kerygma does
the possibility of a true
Christian initiation occur



Aparecida's Process of Formation of Missionary Disciples



Aparecida's Process of Formation of Missionary Disciples



3 Discipleship

Maturing in the knowledge, love, and following of Jesus

Ongoing catechesis and the sacramental life important for persevering in the Christian life and mission in the midst of the Church



Aparecida's Process of Formation of Missionary Disciples



Aparecida's Process of Formation of Missionary Disciples

A large teal notepad with a white top flap, labeled "5 Mission".

5 Mission

Share with others - proclaim Jesus crucified and risen

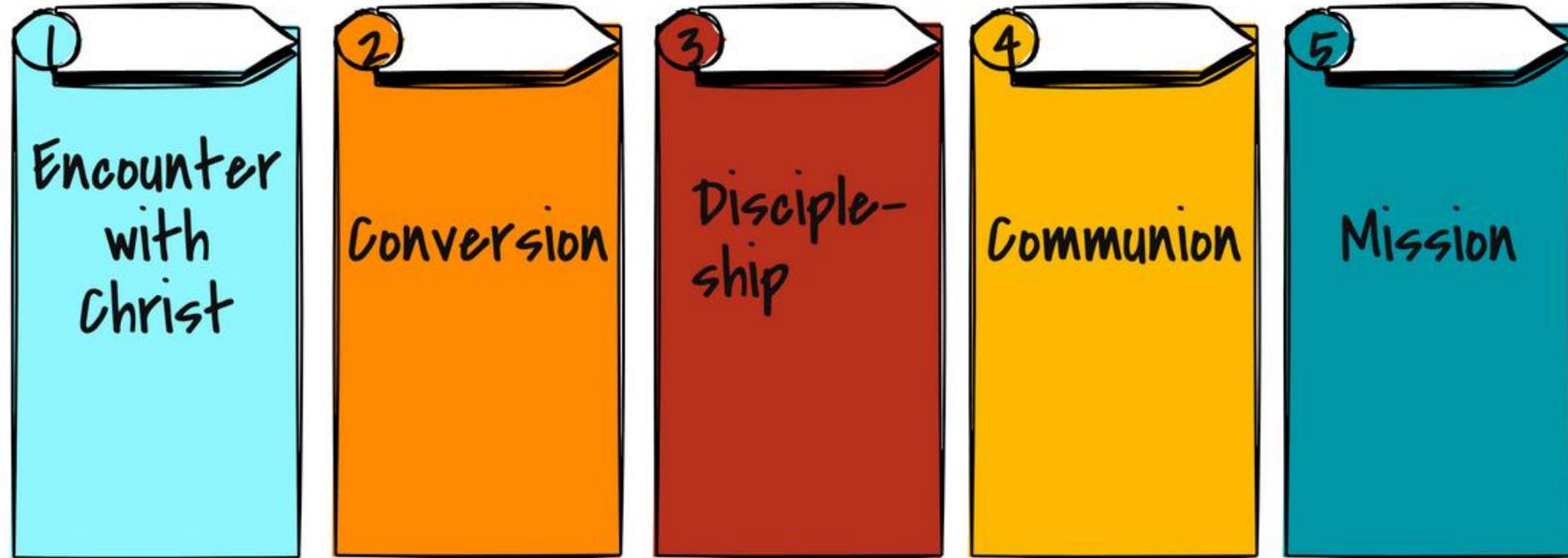
Make real love and service with the neediest

mission is inseparable to discipleship - not after formation

carried out in different ways, depending upon vocation, stage etc.



Aparecida's Process of Formation of Missionary Disciples



initial steps

Concurrent rather than linear



Evangelii Gaudium

- Missionary Discipleship (along with other concepts) makes its way from *Aparecida* into EG:
 - “Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are “disciples” and “missionaries”, but rather that we are always “missionary disciples”.” EG 120
 - We are all missionary disciples because of baptism (EG 119-120)
 - The Church as a community of missionary disciples (EG 24)
 - Accompaniment – MD’s accompany other and would-be missionary disciples (EG 173)
 - Joy - The joy of The gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus (EG 1).

