

# ABOUT THE MISSION

The theme of the mission revolves around the question:

“Can you describe what happens in those events in your life in which you experience the presence of God?”

Through this question, the mission talks will invite those present to become more aware and articulate about their experience of God, so that their own faith life might be strengthened, the faith life of the parish community might be deepened, and a greater witness to God might be manifested to their neighbors.

Thus, the ultimate goal of the mission is to move people to reach out to others by sharing their own faith—commonly called *evangelization*. Now Catholics tend to be slightly intimidated by this word. But the First Letter of Peter advises: “*Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that lies within.*” [1 Peter 3:15] In fact, the U.S. Bishops, in their letter *Go and Make Disciples*, have made the primary goal of evangelization in this country, “*to bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others.*” The parish endeavors to bring about this kind of enthusiasm and to stir up the flames of faith that so often lie dormant within people and the events in their lives.

Therefore, the overall goal of the parish mission is to help those gathered to recognize the importance of developing **their own “faith story”** by appealing to their experiences, both negative (*why do I do the things I do when I know that they are wrong*) and positive (*the more good that I do the more I discover the grace of God within*).

## **Schedule:**

The parish mission generally consists of three days, (*Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday*). The same talk will be presented each day at a morning and evening session. The morning session begins with Mass (*at your regularly scheduled time*), followed by a brief break and then the mission talk and discussion (*about 50-60 minutes*). The evening session begins with an opening prayer and song, followed by the mission talk, concluding with discussions and refreshments. The mission presentation and directed more toward adults. However, all are welcome to come and be a part of this *Divine Encounter!*