DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX

PUBLICITY TEMPLATES

This document contains templates with copy to be applied to your parish’s preferred communication channels (pulpit announcements, digital graphics, printed bulletin inserts, etc.). The templates are designed to be a guide so that your community is updated on ways to partner in the process. You are encouraged to customize these templates to match your parish’s identity and needs.

QUICK LINKS

[PRE-SURVEY:](#PreSurveyCommunicationTemplates)

* [Website Homepage Post](#PreWeb)
* [Website Post and Bulletin Announcement](#PreWebandBulletin)
* [Letter to Staff and Parish Leaders](#PreLetter)
* [Announcement at Mass (preferably made by the Pastor)](#PreAnnouncement)

WHEN THE [SURVEY](#PreSurveyCommunicationTemplates) GOES LIVE!

* [Website Homepage Post](#SurveyWeb)
* [Bulletin Announcement and Website Post](#SurveyBulletin)
* [Announcement at Mass (preferably made by the Pastor)](#SurveyAnnouncement)
* [Announcement at Mass](#SurveyReminder)
* [Social Media](#SurveySocialMedia)

[SURVEY](#PreSurveyCommunicationTemplates) RESULTS:

* [Website Homepage Post and Bulletin Announcement](#_SURVEY_RESULTS-_)
* [Homily/Bulletin Letter (SAMPLE)](#_SURVEY_RESULTS-_Homily/Bulletin)

SAMPLES FROM PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS:

* [From Previous Parish Participant](#ResultsHomily2)
* [Sample Flock Note](#SurveyFlockNote)

**[EMAIL COLLECTION CARD TEMPLATES](#PewCard)**

A blue background with white text

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WAYS TO PUBLICIZE

(2 Disciple Maker Index publicity image options (see above)

(Prayer image example used throughout, may be replaced with parish specific prayer image)

* Virtual Masses and announcements
* Communications to parishioners (i.e., Flocknote, emails, phone calls, etc.)
* Website announcements
* Mass announcements
* Bulletin announcements
* Promoted on bulletin boards.
* Father’s homilies, pastor’s column and bulletin insert which is a letter from the pastor.
* All social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.
* Ministry meetings
* Text reminders to mobile phone list

SURVEY ACCESS

* Email invitation to participate from pastor to the parishioners with DMI parish specific survey link (log-into the CLI portal and copy your parish’s personalized link from your DMI Dashboard)
* Parish/Diocese invites participation in survey via Diocesan Newspaper or Parish Bulletin, when appropriate the parish specific DMI survey link is incorporated to help parishioners participate. (Primary Point of Contact or Pastor can log-into the CLI portal and copy your parish’s personalized link from your DMI Dashboard)
* Invitation to participate posted on social media and parish website with parish specific DMI survey link. (Primary Point of Contact or Pastor can log-into the CLI portal and copy your parish’s personalized link from your DMI Dashboard)
* Invitation to participate is extended through the bulletin and other written communications with the parish specific DMI survey link. (Primary Point of Contact or Pastor can log-into the CLI portal and copy your parish’s personalized link from your DMI Dashboard)
* Provide paper copies of the survey to those that are not able to complete the survey online. (Primary Point of Contact or Pastor can log-into the CLI portal and download and print survey from the DMI dashboard)

PRE-SURVEY COMMUNICATION TEMPLATES

# PRE-SURVEY- Website Homepage Post

Timeline: LIVE at Announcement Weekend

<<PARISH NAME>> is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ in our parish community. Together we must embrace Christ’s vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

The very first step in this process involves **assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities**, and that is where the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI)** comes in! The DMI is an important survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at <<PARISH NAME>>. The Disciple Maker Index is designed to:

 .

* Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
* Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.
* Help parishioners grow in their faith.

The 10–15-minute survey can be accessed through an online link from [INSERT DATES OF SURVEY] and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish’s efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. We will share the link with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey. Paper surveys will also be available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.

Together we must embrace Christ’s vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.*



# PRE-SURVEY- Website Post AND Bulletin Announcement

<<PARISH NAME>> is on a journey know, love, and serve Christ in our parish community. Together we must embrace Christ’s vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

The very first step in this process involves **assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities**, and that is where the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI)** comes in! The DMI is an important survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at <<PARISH NAME>>. The Disciple Maker Index is designed to:

 .

* Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
* Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.
* Help parishioners grow in their faith.

The 10–15-minute survey can be accessed through an online link from [INSERT DATES OF SURVEY] and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish’s efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. We will share the link with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey. Paper surveys will also be available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.

Together we must embrace Christ’s vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

*Thank you for helping with this important project* *and please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.*



PRE-SURVEY- Letter to Staff and Parish Ministry Leaders

As pastor of <<PARISH NAME>>, my primary responsibility is to help you grow as disciples of Jesus and to equip you to go and make disciples of others. I am excited to announce that our parish is participating in a parish survey conducted by Catholic Leadership Institute. The **Disciple Maker Index (DMI)** surveyallows parishioners to reflect on their own spiritual growth and discipleship and identify the ways in which the parish effectively supports that growth.

The web-based survey will be accessible online and in paper form from <<INSERT SURVEY DATES>>**.** Instructions for picking up and submitting paper surveys will be communicated to parishioners.

I want you to know that you and our parish ministry volunteers will be key to the success of this process in our parish. You and our volunteers have been a vital part of our parish life. Through this process, we will lean on your experience and insights as we discern the direction to which God is calling us. Please prayerfully discuss as a team how your position or ministry will help support this work.

An important announcement will be made this weekend regarding the first phase of this journey, which requires us to **assess our greatest** **opportunities and strengths.** We will be utilizing the **Disciple Maker Index** to complete this step, a tool that is designed to:

 .

* Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
* Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.
* Help parishioners grow in their faith.

Soon, you will receive a communication from us inviting them to participate in the survey. If parishioners ask you about the survey, please:

* **Remind** them about the dates the survey will be live <<INSERT DATES>>.
* **Encourage** them to respond as soon they can. We want to hear from as many people as possible.
* **Assure** them that the parish leadership will receive a summary report of the aggregate data and that no one at our parish will have access to individual survey responses.

Thank you for your faithful dedication to <<PARISH NAME>>. We are blessed by your service in so many ways. We continue to ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance as we place this intention under the intercession of <<NAME>> and invite you to make time each week to pray for our parish.

<<PASTOR NAME>>

# PRE-SURVEY- Announcement at Mass (*preferably made by the Pastor*)

I am excited to announce that <<PARISH NAME>> is partnering with Catholic Leadership Institute to for the Disciple Maker Index survey. <<Insert short connection to legacy and personal invitation to get involved.>>

Our parish is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ as a parish community. Together we must embrace Christ’s vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

The first step along this journey is to **assess our greatest** **opportunities and strengths,** and the **Disciple Maker Index** survey is an important instrument that will help us do just that. The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) is designed to:

* **Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.**
* **Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.**
* **Help parishioners grow in their faith.**

The 10–15-minute survey can be accessed through an online link from [INSERT DATES OF SURVEY] and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish’s efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. We will share the link with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey. Paper surveys will also be available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.

Together, we will identify our strengths and opportunities in greater detail as we strive to grow in missionary discipleship.

When the survey GOES live!

# SURVEY OPENS THIS WEEK- Website Homepage Post

Title: The Disciple Maker Index Survey is Open this Week!

Our parish is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ as a parish community. Together we must embrace Christ’s vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

The very first step in this process involves **assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities**, and that is where the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI)** comes in! The DMI is an important survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at <<PARISH NAME>>.

**Take the DMI survey today.** <<include link to online survey with directions/instructions how to begin the survey>>.

* Your input helps strengthen our parish.
* Results help leadership prepare for the future.
* A report of the findings will be shared in <<MONTH>>.

If you prefer a paper copy, you may pick up your survey after daily and Sunday Masses. They will be located <<INSERT LOCATION>>. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off <<INSERT INSTRUCTIONS>>.

At <<PARISH NAME>>, we are blessed in so many ways. Together, we will identify our strengths and opportunities in greater detail as we strive to grow in missionary discipleship.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.*



SUNDAY BULLETIN BY WEEK (can also be used to post to website)

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend

<<PARISH NAME>> is on a journey to know, love and serve Christ better and thrive! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR PARISHIONERS! **Complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey today**. The survey assesses our unique strengths and opportunities. Share your perspective now to help strengthen <<PARISH NAME>> and better prepare us for the future!



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link or QR code>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*



Format: Sunday Bulletin

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend +1

The first step in helping <<PARISH NAME>> assess our greatest strengths and opportunities is to complete the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey today!** Share your perspective now to help strengthen <<PARISH NAME>> and better prepare us for the future – as we seek to grow in missionary discipleship!



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link or QR code>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*



Format: Sunday Bulletin

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend +2

If you’re a parishioner and haven’t already taken the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI)** survey, NOW is the time! It’s the very important first step in <<PARISH NAME’S>> growing in our discipleship. We are currently assessing our parish’s greatest strengths and opportunities, and need your response to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future - as we strive to reflect more of Christ’s love in our community.



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link or QR code>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our* *parish.*



Format: Sunday Bulletin

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend +3

**Don’t delay in taking the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey!** This important survey is essential in helping <<PARISH NAME>> assess our greatest strengths and opportunities – so that our parish can thrive! If you’re a parishioner, take the DMI survey today! We need your response to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future - as we strive to grow as disciples of Christ.



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link or QR code>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*



Format: Sunday Bulletin

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend +4

**Time is running out to complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey** in order to strengthen <<PARISH NAME>> and better prepare us for the future! We need your perspective as a parishioner as we work to identify our greatest strengths and opportunities. Complete the survey today and help <<PARISH NAME>> thrive!



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link or QR code>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*



SURVEY OPENS THIS WEEK- Announcement at Mass (preferably made by the Pastor)

As you may have heard, <<PARISH NAME>> is partnering with Catholic Leadership Institute to for the Disciple Maker Index survey. <<Insert short connection to legacy and a personal invitation to get involved>>.

The first step along this journey is to **assess our greatest** **opportunities and strengths,** and the **Disciple Maker Index** survey is an important tool that will help us do just that. The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) is designed to:

* **Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.**
* **Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.**
* **And help parishioners grow in their faith.**

The DMI survey goes live on <<LAUNCH DATE>>. We encourage you to participate as the results will serve to strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future. A comprehensive report of the findings will be shared with you in the coming months.

If you prefer a paper copy you may pick up a paper copy of the survey after daily and Sunday Masses. They will be located <<INSERT LOCATION>>. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off <<INSERT INSTRUCTIONS>>.

At <<PARISH NAME>>, we are blessed in so many ways. Together, using the Disciple Maker Index survey, we will identify our strengths and opportunities in greater detail as we strive to grow in missionary discipleship.

< *Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.*



SURVEY REMINDER - Announcement at Mass

If you’re a parishioner and haven’t already taken the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey**, NOW is the time! It’s the very important first step in <<PARISH NAME’S>> quest to grow as missionary disciples of Christ. We are currently assessing our parish’s greatest strengths and opportunities. We need your response to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future, as we strive to grow in missionary discipleship.

For more information about the Disciple Maker Index (DMI), please visit our website.

If you prefer a paper copy you may pick one up after daily and Sunday Masses. They will be located <<INSERT LOCATION>>. To submit the completed paper survey, please drop off <<INSERT INSTRUCITONS>>.

SOCIAL MEDIA

##### Social Media (Facebook, IG, TikTok)

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend

<<PARISH NAME>> is on a journey to grow in missionary discipleship and thrive! The first step is assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities. That’s why we’re inviting our parishioners to **take the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey today!** Share your perspective to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future - as we journey together striving to bring more of Christ’s love into our parish community.



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*



Format: Social Media

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend +1

<<PARISH NAME>> needs your help as we strive to grow as disciples of Christ. The first step is to **take the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey today** to help us assess our greatest strengths and opportunities. Share your perspective to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future – as we strive to understand what would help you in your faith journey.



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*



Format: Social Media

Timeline: DMI survey launch Weekend +2

If you’re a parishioner and haven’t already taken the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey**, NOW is the time! It’s the very important first step in <<PARISH NAME’S>> in our journey to a deeper relationship with Christ. We are currently assessing our parish’s greatest strengths and opportunities. We need your response to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future - as we strive grow in missionary discipleship.



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*



Format: Social Media

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend +3

**Don’t delay in taking the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey**! This important survey is essential in helping <<PARISH NAME>> assess our greatest strengths and opportunities – so that our parish can thrive and deepen our commitment to Christ as missionary disciples! If you’re a parishioner, we encourage you to take the DMI survey today! We need your perspective to help strengthen our parish and better prepare us for the future.



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish*



Format: Social Media

Timeline: DMI Survey Launch Weekend +4

**Time is running out to complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey** in order to strengthen <<PARISH NAME>> and better prepare us for the future! Share your perspective as a parishioner as we work to identify our greatest strengths and opportunities. Complete the survey today and help <<PARISH NAME>> thrive!



For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit <<insert survey link>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*



Sample Flock Note Promotion



Father’s Focus – <<Insert Date>>

This past Sunday as I preached at all Masses, I mentioned that being a Christian has been a challenge in every age of the Church. This happens because what the Church believes about God and salvation is almost never in concert with how a society or its culture understands itself, let alone how it may (or may not) address such things as life after death or eternity. These, of course, are not the only things we believe; but they are vital to understanding almost everything that we do believe as well as how we live the Catholic-Christian Faith.

Yet, in every age, Christians believe they have a responsibility to be the best disciple of their Lord and Savior as they can be. They may not be perfect (even the saints were not perfect), but all Christians are called to holiness. This remains central to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council of the mid-1960s because holiness is an integral part of what it means to have received the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Disciple Maker Index allows you to assess how you may be doing both in your discipleship of Christ as well as in your spiritual growth. By doing this assessment in the survey like Disciple Maker Index, it gives the leadership of your parish valuable insights into discovering ways that we can use to help make you, our parishioners, better Christian disciples. This, in turn, can assist you in finding the joy of being a Catholic-Christian which may help others to discover their faith in God, too.

The Disciple Maker Index survey is now live. You can click the link below to participate. All your responses are completely confidential. No member of the Cathedral staff or our leadership team will ever have access to your individual answers.

<<INSERT LINK.>>

If you have questions about the survey or if have any issues in taking it, please contact <<INSERT NAME>> at <<INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS>>.

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our*  *parish.*

A close-up of a person holding a rosary

Description automatically generated

Survey Results

# SURVEY RESULTS- Website Homepage Post AND Bulletin Announcement

Title: The DMI Survey Results!

Together, <<PARISH NAME>> is striving to know, love, and serve Christ in our community. We want to leverage the best of what we have to offer while setting a plan that will transform our future. Together we must embrace Christ’s vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

LATEST: THE RESULTS FROM THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX (DMI) SURVEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

The first step in our journey involved assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities, which was accomplished by the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey. **The DMI survey results are now available!** **(Click here for a complete breakdown of the findings.)** Some of the highlights include:

* (Highlight #1 area of strength from the benchmark report)
* (Highlight #2 area of strength from the benchmark report)
* (Highlight #3 area of strength from the benchmark report)

**Thank you to all who participated in the survey!** The results give us clear benchmarks for understanding our parish’s greatest opportunities and strengths, and **they will be used by** **our soon-to-be formed parish team to develop a path forward**.

**Next Steps:**

<<PARISH NAME>> will continue to keep you informed and provide updates as we move forward and develop a plan for our future!

*Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.*



# SAMPLE HOMILY SURVEY RESULTS- Homily/Bulletin Letter

I love this line from the Second Reading from Peter – “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” (1 Pt 3:15) It assumes so many important things about our discipleship that I think are particularly important for us to remember today in each and every one of our lives. I love this passage because number one - it assumes we have hope. A prerequisite for discipleship is that ultimately, disciples are people of hope. We believe in the resurrection, and we believe that we are on a journey to God the Father with God the Son walking alongside us. I also love this passage because number two - it assumes our hope is so visible, so apparent to others that they are compelled to ask what the reason for our hope is.

In our faith community of <<INSERT PARISH>>, there are many reasons for hope, most of which are the many ways I see God working through you, the people, in your care and love for each other and outside this Church.

As you might remember, <<INSERT PARISH>> was invited to take part in the Disciple Maker Index parish-wide survey. Many of you participated in the survey that asked questions around parishioner’s own discipleship journey and how the parish and the pastor was doing in supporting them along their faith journey.

<<Thanks to your valuable participation, a group of lay leaders and members of our staff joined me in a working session with the Catholic Leadership Institute this month. We interpreted the results of the survey and began creating an action plan based on our strengths and the areas in which we can improve.>>

There was so much to be hopeful about in the responses that came out. One hopeful strength of the parish was <<KEY STRENGTH>>.I also find a lot of hope in the areas where we feel like we can improve. It was very helpful to review the information with some of our volunteers and staff and bring focus on those areas that will help people grow – most noticeably are <<KEY AREA OF OPPORTUNITY>>.

We are still unpacking all of the information we received from the survey and everyone who was at the session is excited and energized by how this information can impact the life of the parish. I look forward to learning more from you around all these different areas. I hope to share more about what we've learned and how we're using this information to help inform our decisions as we move forward.

With all of our strengths and opportunities as a parish, I take most comfort and have great hope in the words we have from John’s Gospel. “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.” (John 14:18-21)

# SAMPLE HOMILY 2

*Ezekiel 18: 25-28*

*Psalm 25*

*Philippians 2: 1-11*

*Matthew 21: 28-32*

In September 2016 I was part of a pilgrimage that visited the ancient city of Philippi. Today the ruins of that Greco-Roman city are in Greece and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The vastness of the ruins are tells us how important the city was. If you were coming from the East, it was the first major city of Europe. When the Roman Empire took it over about thirty years before the birth of Christ, its importance only grew, particularly as a military post. Military veterans settled there, and the Empire eventually exempted all citizens who lived in Philippi from paying most of the taxes. (Not a bad deal, to say the least!)

The Apostle Paul first came to Philippi around 49 A.D. with his companions Silas and Timothy as part of his second missionary journey. (The story is told in the sixteenth chapter of the *Acts of the Apostles*.) There was no synagogue in Philippi, so Paul and his traveling party found out that that the Jews and other “God-fearing Gentiles” gathered for prayer on the Sabbath at a nearby river. There, Paul encountered a lady named Lydia who was from Thyatira who was a dealer in purple cloth – a luxury item at the time. She would be the first person to receive Christian Baptism on the continent of Europe. Over time, Paul’s preaching the message of Jesus brought more and more people to be baptized. It was to this group of Christians that Paul would write the *Letter to the Philippians* while he was in prison, most likely in Rome, in the late sixties of the first century.

Paul’s special love for the Christians in Philippi comes out as you read the *Letter to the Philippians*. And within it is one of the most beautiful and memorable passages of all the New Testament. Known as the Philippians Hymn, it begins at verse 6 of chapter two and continues to verse 11. Paul’s prelude to this hymn (or poem) is to say, “Each of you must have the same attitude as that of Christ….” (Phil 2:5). Here, as he does elsewhere in the *Letter*, Paul encourages the Christians to be true Christians – not by simple having some good thoughts or feelings about Christ, nor using lofty words and phrases that can make it sound like you know everything of Jesus. No, proclaiming the name of Jesus as Lord had to mean that this life was lived daily. The words of Paul ring true down to our day, too.

Being a disciple of Jesus has always been a challenge in every age of human history, in all these 2000 years. Today those challenges may seem different and are amplified by the rise of social media, but when you get down to it, they are the same as we have faced for all these centuries – overcoming selfishness and sinful pride. The passage from Paul’s *Letter to the Philippians* today invites every Christian to become more and more like Christ in emptying one’s self of everything that is self-centered.

I believe that the parishes of the Catholic Church must always be places where people can, first, encounter Jesus Christ as Lord, but from there to grow in being a disciple of Christ. This happens by on-going formation in the faith and, most especially, in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, particularly the Eucharist, which is at the heart of who we are because the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist is Jesus Himself.

In 2019, Bishop Estevez asked all parishes to become part of the Diocese of St. Augustine’s Strategic Plan. Your Cathedral Pastoral Council has worked closely with me to find ways to do so. The more the Council discussed with me what we could do, the more we knew that there was a first step that would be necessary. We needed to find out where people are at in their discipleship of Jesus. Thankfully, to that end, one of the resources that have been offered to parishes is a survey called “The Disciple Maker Index.” Over the last several years, this survey has been used in parishes throughout the United States to help leadership assess this information.

As your pastor, I’m asking and encouraging everyone in our parish that is at least 15 years old to take the survey. Beginning this Thursday, October 1, the survey will be live for you to take and will remain available until November 15. Obviously, in order to get the best assessment of our parish, we want as many as possible to complete the survey. It is best to do it on-line, but we will also give you opportunities to complete a “hard copy” of the survey in mid-October. The link to the survey will be “live” on our parish’s website (www-dot-the first parish – dot- org) beginning Thursday. Instructions on how to take the survey are in today’s bulletin as well as on the web site.

The survey will ask you to assess your spiritual growth as well as your own discipleship of Jesus. All of your answers are confidential. No one from the parish will ever see your answers nor will we be given access to your individual answers. So, be assured of the confidentiality of the process. What we hope to obtain from the Disciple Maker Index is a broad understanding of not only assessment of your spiritual growth and discipleship, but then to figure out ways to help you be a better Christian.

Teri Travis, who is on the Cathedral Parish Council and also serves as a sacristan for the parish for the parish, has agreed to serve my assistant in this effort. You can contact her at [cathedraldmi@gmail.com](mailto:cathedraldmi@gmail.com). She’ll be able to answer questions or address any problems you may have.

Going back to today’s reading from *Philippians*, Saint Paul saw the day when the entire world would be united in proclaiming “Jesus as Lord to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:11). We can make that happen in our time by being more in tune with what is needed to help us grow spiritually so we can be better disciples of Christ. I humbly ask all of our Cathedral Parish members to take this survey. Help your parish leadership to know better the things that will help you in your “Yes” to Jesus, in your “Yes” to serving others, in your “Yes” to being inspired by the beauty of our Catholic Faith.

May God continue to bless you and all the families of the Cathedral Parish.

*Cathedral Basilica of Saint Augustine*

*27 September 2020*

**EMAIL COLLECTION CARD TEMPLATES**

We are updating our parish database! (Please print legibly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We are updating our parish database! (Please print legibly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We are updating our parish database! (Please print legibly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_