

# Diocese of London: Year of Prayer

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,  
and fill the hearts of your people with an  
ardent desire to follow Jesus,  
to be his missionary disciples.**

**Fill us with joy and a desire to know your word.  
May we boldly proclaim the Good News to others;  
for when we help others to know that God loves them,  
they will know true happiness.**

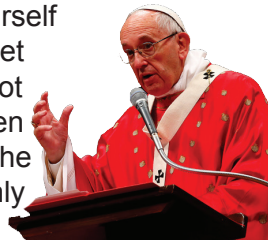
**Fill us with a deep desire for the Eucharist.  
May we recognize Jesus in the proclamation of the  
Scriptures  
and in the Breaking of the Bread;  
for when we are united with Jesus, joy is constantly born  
anew.**

**Fill us with a true love of neighbour.  
May we seek opportunities for reconciliation,  
and with big hearts serve those in need;  
for in serving them, we know we are serving your Son.  
With the help of the Holy Spirit, may we commit ourselves  
to loving you and doing your will.**

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Do not be afraid to set your sights higher, to allow yourself to be loved and liberated by God. Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy, when all is said and done, "the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint".

(Pope Francis, *Gaudete et exsultate*, 34)



# Year of Prayer

At our Mass of Chrism, on Monday of Holy Week, I announced that beginning on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019, and lasting until the next Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020, we will observe a special Year of Prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our diocese as we seek to be "a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus". This initiative was recommended by *Equipping the Saints: The Diocesan Commission on the Families of Parishes*.



During the Year of Prayer, we are inviting all parishioners, and our Catholic partners, to join in prayer that each of us, the lay and the ordained, our parishes and our entire diocese recommit ourselves to growing in and living the mission of Jesus, that is, to be "a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus".

At Pentecost, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and their transformation into courageous witnesses of Christ. In the *Acts of the Apostles*, we read that the disciples encountered the risen Lord. They went out and led many others to Christ. During this Year of Prayer, we pray that the Holy Spirit, whom we received at our Baptism, will renew us, transform us and help each of us to be missionary disciples of Jesus.

I ask you to support this initiative in your parishes, in your communities and in your homes. With the help of the Holy Spirit, may each of us be renewed in our relationship with the risen Jesus. May we grow in our understanding of what it means to be missionary disciples and commit ourselves to living as his faithful disciples.

The Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
Pentecost Sunday, 2019

**Year of Prayer: Pentecost 2019 to Pentecost 2020**

# Being a Missionary Disciple...

## *In your parish* ↔ *In your community* ↔ *In your home* ↔ *In your heart*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seek a renewal of the faith we proclaim and a personal relationship with God</li><li>• Full, active and attentive participation at each Mass</li><li>• Join or start a Social Justice committee</li><li>• Reach out to those in need</li><li>• Seek to grow in your understanding of the faith; attend faith formation classes</li><li>• Become involved in a parish committee, group,</li><li>• Study and know the richness of the Church's teachings</li><li>• Encourage parishioners to pray for one another</li><li>• Pray for the members of your Pastoral team (priests, deacons and Lay Ecclesial Ministers)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Witness: actively live your faith</li><li>• Encounter and accompany those in need; let them know you are a follower of Christ by your love</li><li>• Be virtuous: practice prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude</li><li>• Work towards communities that are built on justice and peace</li><li>• Be ready to give a reason for your hope; be ready to explain why you follow Jesus</li><li>• Avoid gossip</li><li>• Recognize each person as your sister or brother</li><li>• Lead with your ears: listen</li><li>• Pray for your neighbourhood</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage a culture of vocations; encourage each other to live the faith</li><li>• By your witness, make your home the 'first church'</li><li>• Serve those in need</li><li>• Pray as a family/community</li><li>• Have a family outreach project: consider the needs of others - visit the sick, feed the hungry, etc.</li><li>• Eat together as a family/couple</li><li>• Promote Catholic Education</li><li>• Be hospitable to all who visit</li><li>• Set a good example for one another</li><li>• Promote the 'Gospel of Life'; celebrate and protect each life, from conception to natural death</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pray unceasingly</li><li>• Listen to, know and study Sacred Scripture</li><li>• Discern in prayer how your daily life resonates with the Gospel</li><li>• Discern what you are being called to be and how you are being called to live your faith</li><li>• Seek what is good, true and beautiful</li><li>• Identify with Christ and live your faith</li><li>• Promote an attitude of gratitude</li><li>• Be a follower of Jesus, get to know him and learn from him</li><li>• Reflect on the lives of the saints</li></ul> |
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**In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 120)**