

“PRIORITY ONE: Renew our efforts to live the Gospel.

The root of any Christian community’s purpose is living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With this as our guide, the parish pastoral plan’s first priority is to sow the seeds of God’s love in the hearts and minds of all our neighbors and beyond by renewing our own efforts, as a parish and as individual members of it, to live the Gospel.”

The above is the first priority of our current parish pastoral plan. Living the Gospel and transforming our community by our Gospel living is what we mean by the word “evangelization.” Every parish has this task as the ultimate and supreme reason for why that parish exists, and the same is true for us here at St. Boniface: we exist as a parish to transform our community by our efforts to live the Gospel. In other words, we have been called together here as a parish to evangelize this part of the world that has been entrusted to us.

We live the Gospel when we live our lives in the saving grace that Christ Jesus died and rose to secure for us and that he poured out into the world by the gift of his Spirit. Grace is just another word for God’s life, and, as St. John reminds us, God is love (1 Jn 4:7), so to live in grace, to live the Gospel, means to love others with the love of God. To love others with the love of God is to invite them into a saving relationship with him in and through Jesus Christ.

This is what we are called to do in everything that we undertake, as individuals and in every service and ministry of our parish. But we do this as a parish in a uniquely focused way through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or the RCIA. This is the ordinary means by which we welcome adults who are not Catholic into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ in and through the teachings, sacraments, and communal life of the Catholic Church. The RCIA is thus a model and goal for all of our efforts at evangelization.

In the coming weeks, we will be providing more information about the RCIA here at St. Boniface. I ask everyone to pray for the adults in your life who have not yet entered into a saving relationship with Christ in the Catholic Church. Ask God for the wisdom and grace to inspire them by your words and actions to consider exploring that possibility by participating in the RCIA, and may God grant us all the grace to live his Gospel in everything that we do.