



## INTRODUCTION: THE CHURCH AND THE LAITY

#### Primacy of the Laity in the 21st Century Church



## Key Elements of Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity:

- By our Baptism we become sharers in the ministry of the Body of Christ
- It is a vocation to be fulfilled in the world (engaged as leaven)
- Role of the laity is essential in accomplishing the mission of the Church
- Laity are not only "in communion" with Church but ARE Church (not objectified)

Let your light shine before all people in order that they may see your good works and give glory to God. (Matt 5:16)

Our own times require of the laity no less zeal; in fact, modern conditions demand their apostolate be broadened and intensified.

Education

Health Care Sponsoring Catholic Institutions

Social Services

**Emerging Structures** 

How do you participate in the SC Mission?
What makes you proud of your SC connection?
How does fundraising support or contribute to the Mission?

#### DO YOU EVER WONDER...



The social fabric of life involves a conviction that we are bound together in a single destiny, that we are social by nature, not by choice. From this conviction flows the understanding that being human means accepting accountability, personally, professionally, institutionally, for the lives of others.

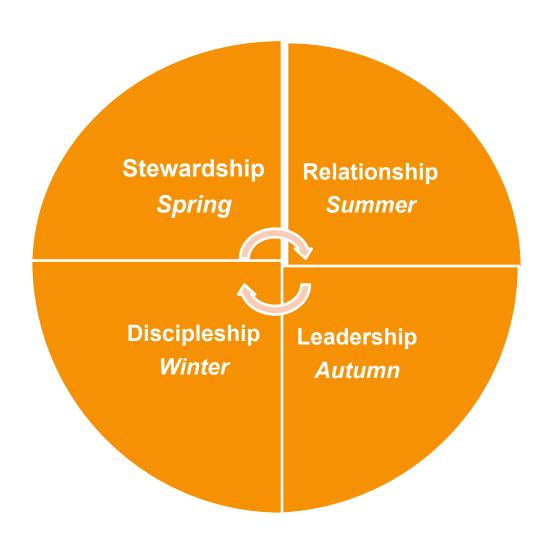
Byran Hehir, ThD



#### SEASONS OF SPONSORSHIP



### Seasons of Sponsorship



#### Parable of the Talents







The size of the investment is not important — it's the

100% return

Talents were

"on loan"

The individuals, not the resources were put to work

Talents were shared because of a relationship

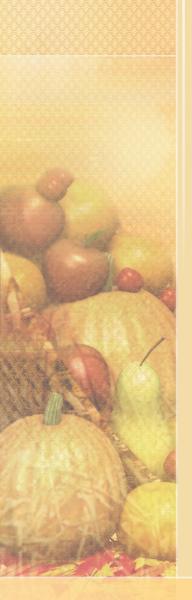
Investment was made for the absent landlord

# Tire Iron and Tamale It's the Connections!





## The Cellist of Sarajevo







"If you are a poet, you will see clearly that there is a cloud floating in this sheet of paper. Without a cloud, there will be no water; without water, trees cannot grow; and without trees, you cannot make paper. So the cloud is in here. The existence of this page is dependent up the existence of a cloud. Paper and cloud are so close.

Thich Nhat Hahn

Relationship



### <del>Leadershi</del> p

Servant Leadership should call us to serve a higher purpose, something beyond ourselves.

- ✓ How does my
  leadership change the
  lives of those most
  vulnerable in society?
- ✓ Do those led become holier, better, wiser, freer, apt themselves to become leaders?
- ✓ Does everyone in the community grow in empathy, compassion, integrity?



#### "GO AND DO LIKEWISE"

Originally offered as a response to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" the Gospel parable of the Good Samaritan continues to capture our corporate imagination and to animate us to act (serve) with compassion and love towards all. Prompted by Jesus' story the original questioner identified the neighbor as the one who treated the needy person with mercy. Jesus replied, "Go and do likewise."



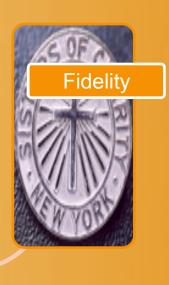
## Qualities of Discipleship











#### The Potter









#### Prayer and Reflection

One who prays unceasingly
Is one who combines prayer with necessary duties
And duties with prayer.

Only in this way
Can we find it practicable to fulfill
The commandment to pray always.

It consists in regarding the whole of existence As a single great prayer.

What we are accustomed to call prayer is only a part of it.

Origen (On Prayer)



Pentimento
...what was
there for us
once...





## SISTERS OF CHARITY AND YOU

#### Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening

**Robert Frost** 

...But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.

...[our] best bid for REMEMBRANCE

