

No Bystanders in Unleashing the Gospel

(based on STM Bulletin – June 11, 2017)

At the Mass for the Vigil of Pentecost on Saturday night, June 3, 2017, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Archbishop Vigneron promulgated his Pastoral Letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, setting the course for the Church in Detroit for the next generation. There is quite a lot to “unpack” in the 44-page document. We will do that over the next several weeks and months, but the Archbishop’s Vigil homily is a good starting point now to see what the Letter means for us as individuals, families, a parish community, and for the region overall. He asked us all to pray with and for **boldness, urgency, self-sacrificing love, faith** and **hope** that our mission will be accomplished through the Holy Spirit.

Pray that the graces already bestowed on the Church in Detroit will be multiplied over the years to follow.

The Pastoral Letter is the Archbishop’s response to what the Synod discerned from the Holy Spirit. Every individual Catholic in southeast Michigan is challenged to respond with a “missionary conversion” and participate in bringing everyone we meet to a deeper personal encounter with Jesus. The Letter elaborates a vision where every family, parish and AOD office enables and supports every baptized Catholic in responding to this call to Unleash the Gospel: **There are “no bystanders.”**

A key final point is that **the Pastoral Letter is just the beginning.**



Symbolic of the magnitude of this historic change of direction for Detroit Catholics, there is a new AOD Coat-of-Arms. It retains historic images and adds new ones. Especially relevant to evangelization is the open door. It is both a door through which all people are welcomed into relationship with Christ in His Church, and a door from which we are sent out to be joyful missionary disciples.

Over the next few weeks, watch this column for further information about *Unleash the Gospel* and the individual roles we are called to in service to this mission.

In the meantime, check out these online resources:

For the **Pastoral Letter** and **Coat-of-Arms**: www.unleashthegospel.org/

For the **Vigil Homily**: www.aod.org/our-archdiocese/newsroom/statements/2017/june/homily-of-archbishop-vigneron-at-vigil-of-pentecost/