

***Unleashing the Gospel* in Our Parish**

(from STM Bulletin – July 9, 2017)

This week's highlights of Archbishop Vigneron's Pastoral Letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, are the **Propositions** and **Action Steps** meant to unfold briefly the Synod Vision for **parish** culture, function and leadership. These are outlined here.

The **Propositions for Parishes** affirmed by the Archbishop, and relevant to every parishioner, are to:

- **Step 2.1:** *Build a culture of life-changing personal encounter with Jesus that permeates every aspect of parish life and that leads to a loving encounter of our neighbors (e.g., children, youth, adults, and seniors).*
- **Step 2.2:** *Equip, empower, support and send forth individuals and families in mission (e.g., for evangelization, social and economic transformation, and spiritual and corporal works of mercy).*
- **Step 2.3:** *Establish a parish leadership team around the pastor, where team members share responsibility and accountability to the vision to Unleash the Gospel and to the mission of the parish.*

How can we, as lay members of STM, help with the **Action Steps** for parishes that are to be initiated by the AOD or by the pastor and his leadership team? We can help by responding to the Holy Spirit, through prayer and by cooperating in our own formation. Specific examples from the Letter of how we may facilitate implementation of Action Steps and help re-build our parish include:

- Joining with our pastor to recommit ourselves to daily personal prayer and intercession as our highest priority.
- Participating regularly in Eucharistic Adoration and Marian Devotion.
- Embracing a habit of regular celebration of and participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Contributing to “a spirit of radical hospitality” at STM “that permeates all parish activity and flows out to the community.”
- Seeking out opportunities to share clear, dynamic, and life-changing encounters with Jesus.
- Sharing with our pastor and parish leaders what we have discerned about living our mission as individuals and families, and:
- Responding to the call to serve the parish, giving back to God the talents and charisms with which we have been blessed.

These are only a few of the possible actions we as individuals might take to “change the DNA” of the Church in Detroit and invigorate STM parish. Expect wonders!