

Boston College
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION
Encore

Transcript of
“Fostering a Faith Dimension and a Sense of Belonging”
Video Segment 4
Transforming Parishes through Communities of Practice

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What I want to do is to spend the next block of time talking about what would that look like? How might you do that? What would be some of the ways in which we could foster that sense of intentionality?

So, the first one is being intentional about articulating and embracing the faith dimension of each of the parish communities of practice. How do we bring those to the fore? Couple of suggestions: the first is that in the places where we describe these boards and committees and groups, etc., we include in there the call to be evangelizers. If you you're going to join the parish council, if you're going to be on the finance committee, if you're going to be a catechist, if you're going to be all these, part of what you're signing up for is to be an evangelizer. Good, you know how to do money, we want you on the

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support them? How do we establish some kind of system of mentorship between new and established members so somebody in the group is responsible for being sure the person knows what they're talking about, knows what's going on? Whether it's a finance committee or the group of catechists. . . How do we do that? How do we make that connection, and that we cultivate a milieu or a context in which members move in and out of communities of practice?

A parish that I've been in, not the one I'm in now, but a parish that I've been in, had so many lectors that you lectored about once every four months. Kind of forgotten your lines by that time. There were so many that it was like, wow, which is, at some level, great, but on another level it meant that we had people who had been lectors forever and ever and never found other ministries they wanted to do.

How do we do that? How do we create a context in which, like the parish council, there is a term limit? Even to our catechists, as a person who's been a DRE, I know how frightening that is to think that you're going to say to some of your catechists, "Thanks, what else do you want to do?" I know, I can see the panic. But I think for the vitality of the group that it's an important thing to think about.