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THE ST. PAUL CENTER FOR THEOLOGY AND PRAYER

Forming Disciples
of Jesus in Every
Congregation

ABOUT TSPC

Theology is not just an intellectual exercise, but a lived, practiced, performed reality in the life of the Church. It's a transformative movement of whole persons toward God through not only engagement of the mind with Scripture, history, and ideas, but through a lived expression of prayer, worship, service, and love.

The St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer is an invitation deeper into this life. Our hope is that the Center will be a springboard for the imagination in this Diocese, a point from which local parishes and other congregations can embark together on this life. TSPC will do so primarily by equipping and resourcing local congregations for the task of faith formation, teaching and learning, catechesis, and the life of prayer.

The invitation is not for people to become scholastics weighing the finer points of doctrine, but to draw people into the depths of God's love through an exploration of what that love might look like—of how that love has been received and cultivated in the Christian faith.

The Center, "housed" at the Cathedral with regional diocesan centers and online presence, will do this through at least three fundamental avenues:

CONTINUED EDUCATION FOR CLERGY

Priests are every parish or congregation's theologian in residence, to whom people turn and from whom people expect robust, learned, and wise teaching and direction.

But fulfilling one's calling and ordination vows "to be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ," to be a "patient teacher," in order to "nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace," is beyond overwhelming when we're weighed down by so many tasks and responsibilities, and often on our own.

TSPC will focus on resourcing clergy and other leaders at the local level through learning communities of prayer, materials—video, online, and written—that can be used in parishes, and personal spiritual nourishment for clergy, aiding and resourcing clergy for the joy of forming disciples.

LAY FORMATION AND LICENCING

Forming disciples of Jesus in every congregation necessarily involves the gifts and wisdom of lay people. TSPC will enrich lay leaders by assisting with formal training for licensing programs as well as running courses, seminars, events, retreats, online materials, and more.

More importantly, TSPC will help resource local congregations for their own faith formation, providing for the spiritual nourishment and well-being of clergy and lay leaders who will then be better equipped to walk alongside others in their community of faith.

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

The Church is a called people (ekklesia). Forming disciples at a basic level includes communal and individual wisdom to live into our calling. There are many in our congregations whose gifts are unrealized, and others who have difficulty discerning what it means to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. TSPC wants to help people throughout the Diocese reorient around this sense of vocation.