

Retreat Audience: If I understood correctly, there will be a few members of each (or most) of the different church communities. These are communities that don't know each other well one, and which differ from one another by each other perceptions of 'catholic culture' and/or language, socio economic status.

The retreat can play a significant role highlighting not only the reality of the Catholic church in the Archdiocese of Hartford, and New Haven, but celebrating the common call (and commandment) we have been given to **go and make disciples**.

Beginning with the Celebration of Holy Eucharist, the retreat may continue with two sessions, design to **1) begin building trust** among the different parishioners/staff/clergy, and **2) begin developing a common Vision** for the Catholic Church in New Haven.

The two sessions may look like this:

- **Session I: SCRIPTURE IN MOTION**

- **Ice-Breaker** (maybe during coffee...etc): Name and answer to:

What was the first thing you bought with your own money?

or

If you were given \$10,000 to travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

- **Parable of the Lost Sheep** (Luke 15:1-15)

Jesus paints a clear vision of His church: it is constantly going out and inviting/calling people to Him. This is not a church that is stagnant, caring only of its own. It is a church that is constantly on the move to find, invite the lost.

Is our current church achieving Jesus' vision?

- **Current State of the Catholic Church in Hartford** (and New Haven, if you get data from New Haven)

- # Practicing Catholics
- # Priests
- How much of our efforts go to maintenance vs. mission?

- **9 Reasons why we all want a church that grows.**

- *Our identity as a church is a church that grows, embolden by faith to preach the Good News in a world desperate for salvation. Tom Conchoran shared 9 reasons (Biblical) for a community to **want** to have a growing church. They are very persuasive, I'll find them.*

- **Session II: A GROWING CHURCH**

- **Patrick Lencioni: Change is good, transition is hard** (video).
All of us desire a Catholic church that is on the move and inviting others to embrace the Good News. How to do that requires that we change what we've done and hasn't worked. Change may sound bad, but it's what we desire, as we see explained by Patrick Lencioni.
- **Vision: What is our Vision for New Haven.**
 - *Jesus' mission is clear: **Go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)*
 - *What does that mission look like in New Haven?*
 - **Vision:** this is the image / painted picture, that guide our actions and decisions. Jesus called for a church that is constantly going out to reach the lost and to invite them into a relationship with Him.
 - *What is the **vision** of the church in New Haven? What do we want to be the experience of the 'unchurched' when they walk into our communities?*
 - **Exercise: Five Senses** (taken from Auxano)
 - Picture yourself as a person who has been away from the church for a very long time, and this Sunday happen to go/visit Mass in New Haven.

Try to experience going to church as that guest would, the first time he or she enters. Do a Sunday walk-through with your senses. What do you see, what do you smell, etc,

Divide into teams, and write down positive experiences after you've seen yourself going to church as an outsider and what it feels like. Write down also areas of growth – what is still missing?