

# Launch Point Guide

## Introduction (5 minutes)

Why does parish renewal matter? Because too many of our churches are in decline—attendance is shrinking, energy is low, and it's too easy to get stuck in maintenance. But it doesn't have to be this way. Imagine a parish that is alive with faith, filled with people eager to encounter Jesus and share him with others. If you're moved by what's possible in your parish, *Launch Point* is where to begin. This session is an opportunity to honestly assess where you are, dream about what's possible, and discern whether you're ready to take the next step. Renewal isn't just a program—it's a journey and today, you and those you have brought around you, start exploring if you're ready to embark on it together.

### Participants will:

- **Examine** parish decline, recognizing our place in that reality
- **Discuss** the hopeful possibilities within our own parish context - make the case as to why our parish should embrace mission and renewal.
- **Assess** our parish's potential for implementing renewal initiatives and our personal openness to change, adapt, and be accompanied in that journey
- **Discern** what our next step around parish renewal might be.

## When to run *Launch Point* in your parish:

- The pastor is open to starting (or re-starting) the Parish Renewal Journey
- You are convinced that renewal is not only necessary, but also possible
- A small group, invited by the pastor, has been gathered to discern together

## Format & Flow

Today's session will be an interactive discernment process. It will include a:

- mix of **prayer, reflection, videos, and discussion**
- time of **group discernment**
- **2-hour time commitment**, though you might like to incorporate social time, a break, and longer times of discussion or prayer

## Videos You'll Watch

(You may want to download these ahead of time)

- ☐ Introduction to Divine Renovation (3 min)
- ☐ Reality Check (5 min)
- ☐ Unlocking Your Parish (5 min)
- ☐ Are You Ready for Change? (10 min)
- ☐ Intro to Genesis Compass (5 min)

## **Session Outline**

### **Opening prayer** (5-10 minutes)

You might like to read the daily Gospel and allow for some reflection time together.

### **Part 1 - Introduction to Divine Renovation** (5 minutes)

Learn a little more about Divine Renovation Ministry.

- **PLAY** “Introduction to Divine Renovation” video (3 minutes)

### **Part 2 - Reality Check** (20-25 minutes)

Let’s start by assessing our current reality in parish life.

- **PLAY** “Reality Check” video (5 minutes)

Discuss the current reality in your parish.

- *What in your parish drives you crazy and why?*
- *What are some signs of hope that you notice in your parish?*

### **Part 3 – Unlocking Your Parish’s Call** (20-25 minutes)

Now let’s take a look at what this all means for you in your particular parish context.

- **PLAY** “Unlocking Your Parish” video (5 minutes)

Discuss the possibilities in our parish. Let your imaginations run wild as you hope and dream for what your parish can do in the future!

- *What do you love about your parish?*
- *If you could snap your fingers and have anything you want to happen in your parish, what would it be?*
- *What is your parish’s potential in the neighbourhood or city?*

### **Part 4 - Are We Ready to Change?** (30-35 minutes)

If you’re feeling like change or adjustments are needed in your parish, this next video will outline what that might entail.

- **PLAY** “Are You Ready for Change?” video (10 minutes)

Discuss what implementing the Three Keys in our parish could look like.

- *Which of the [Three Keys](#) (The Power of the Holy Spirit, The Primacy of Evangelization, the Best of Leadership) do we model most effectively and which of them are modelled least effectively?*
- *If we were to create a culture around the three keys more intentionally in our parish, what kind of responses could we expect?*
- *What type of support would we need?*

## Part 4 - Are We Ready to Change? (CONTINUED)

Spend about 5 minutes in **silent prayerful reflection** around this prompt:

*Experience has shown that parish renewal only occurs when the heart of the pastor and key leaders in the parish are on fire for mission.*

- *Do you feel your heart is on fire for mission?*
  - *If not, how can you change that?*
- *What is your heart telling you about what is possible?*
  - *Where do you think you'll need to grow the most?*
  - *What scares you?*

## Part 5 - NEXT STEPS (20-25 minutes)

This *Launch Point* session is essentially an invitation for us to launch into this journey that will move our parish from maintenance to mission.

Divine Renovation has a tool that can help parishes take those first steps and begin to see what that journey could look like for them. This tool is called *The Genesis Compass* and it is a guide to how to live out those three principles and navigate the many different areas of renewal. Here is a video that gives an overview of what the Genesis Compass is all about.

**PLAY** ["Intro to Genesis Compass"](#)

As you just heard, *The Genesis Compass* is your navigation tool for renewal. It consists of thematic modules, facilitated by a Divine Renovation Guide, that you and a team can participate in to make progress in doing the work of renewal.

We want to help you craft and cast vision, build a leadership team, and prioritize evangelization.

It all begins with Missional Prayer - discern where the Holy Spirit is guiding your parish and begin interceding for the work ahead.

### Discussion

- *What excites you about this invitation to renewal?*
- *What barriers do you anticipate?*

## Next Steps

Divine Renovation is ready to help discern the next steps. We're a donor-funded ministry, so there is no fee for our support. To contact your Regional Lead for a conversation around next steps, click [here](#).

If you are a pastor and haven't yet participated in coaching with Divine Renovation, that's the next step for you. Our initial coaching experience is a four-session cohort for pastors with other priests and a Divine Renovation coach, meeting weekly for 90-minutes via Zoom. We cover the principles we've identified as critical to moving mission forward. To register for a cohort click here: <https://divinerenovation.tfaforms.net/f/Kickstart>.

If you've completed the initial coaching and are ready to begin the journey with your team, the first step is most often Missional Prayer. These facilitated sessions are designed to get your whole team thinking a little more deeply about what mission means, to lean a little more on the power of the Holy Spirit, and to ground all future efforts in prayer. These 4 sessions (with a 5<sup>th</sup> session scheduled later as a debrief) take 1.5-2 hours each and are designed to be run weekly. To begin Missional Prayer, [click here](#).

## Closing Prayer