

# Introduction and Chapter One

*House of Prayer: Remembering Our Identity and Purpose*

## Key Theme

*Reclaiming An Awareness of Our Missionary Identity*

## Corresponding Videos

Divine Renovation: An Interview with Fr Mallon Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C18V0I28-2U&t=192s>

## Takeaways

- Of all the crises that we can name in the Church today, “our deepest crisis is an identity crisis...we have forgotten who we are and what we are called to do as a Church.” (p. 13)
- If we exist for mission, what is the mission of the Church? Jesus gave four tasks: go, make, baptize and teach. The task of making disciples is central. (p. 19-20)
- A disciple of Jesus is “engaged in a lifelong process of learning from and about Jesus.” (p. 20) We are, “not to just make believers, or ‘practicing Catholics,’ but to make disciples.” (p. 22)
- “To receive this Good News, to be evangelised, is not only to hear these wonderful truths, to know about them, but to come to know Him – to not just believe in Him, but love Him and be in love with Him.” (p. 22)
- “We must labour to create spaces for people to come to know Jesus as the living Lord, awaken that hunger and then begin to form them, to make them disciples. We must rediscover our identity and place the Lord’s mandate for his Church at the heart of everything we do, so that at the heart of every parish there will be a community of growing, maturing believers who are committed to a lifelong process of disciplined learning, who are discovering their talents, who are prepared to serve and eventually become apostles” (one who is sent). (p. 23-24)
- “Being a Church of disciples...is just part of our calling.” We must also go outward and fulfill our missionary nature to share Jesus with others and to evangelize. (p. 24)

# Introduction and Chapter One (continued)

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## Discussion Questions

- 1 If you had only one word or phrase to describe the purpose of your parish, what would it be?
- 2 If your parishioners had only one word to describe the purpose of your parish, what would it be? (You may want to ask ten people after Mass.)
- 3 At present, what types of activities take up most of the time, talent, and treasure of your parish?
- 4 What does the Titanic story (p.18) suggest to us about the consequences of our own identity crisis?
- 5 How does your parish live out the command to make disciples? How do you personally live it out?
- 6 How do people in your parish speak about Jesus? Do they speak about a relationship with Jesus, or is it an intellectual knowledge about Jesus that is shared?
- 7 How have you encountered Jesus in your life (e.g., through Sacraments, prayer, people, ministry, devotion)?
- 8 What is the hope for the future of your parish, as you begin to dream of renewal in your Church?

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