

Father Dan has not received any feedback from parishioners at either parish concerning representation as Parish Point of Contact on the Diocesan Evangelization process. The following communications from October 25, 2024, give more details to help inspire your volunteerism.

Father Dan would rather not assign someone. He prefers to have someone volunteer to participate!

“ an evangelization process is now beginning. Pastors/Administrators have been asked to sign up for one of three scheduled webinars this month, and then we will begin recruiting Parish Points of Contact, who will assist our clergy with administering the program locally.

The first public engagement will be a survey called the Disciple Maker Index, which will ramp up and be sent out later this year. The survey will be available in hard copy form as well as electronically. We will need the Parish Points of Contact to make this process work efficiently.

Please consider who in your parish would be best fit for this position. Possible recruits could be from one of your parish councils, someone from your religious education program, Vicariate Pastoral Council members, or your PPOC for the Eucharistic Congress, just to name a few options.

You will want to decide on a Parish Point of Contact next week, no later than November 1 if possible. A letter from Bishop Brennan discusses this further.

These PPOCs will be invited to webinars by Catholic Leadership Institute for training and next steps.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits and filled with the peace of our Lord. I am writing to share with you an exciting initiative that promises to shape our diocese in meaningful ways: a partnership with the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI), a distinguished national apostolate that has dedicated more than 30 years to nurturing and supporting the Church’s leaders. This collaboration offers us a notable opportunity to engage deeply in programs and action steps designed to create a three-year evangelization plan for our diocese.

A key component of this partnership will be the implementation of the Disciple Maker Index, a parish survey tool that has successfully gathered the voices and experiences of over 600,000 parishioners across more than 40 dioceses in the United States since its inception in 2013. What I find particularly compelling about the Disciple Maker Index is that it invites you — the faithful of our Diocese — to reflect on where you are in your journey of faith, both as disciples and as missionaries. I know the Diocese has offered different surveys in the past, and we recently completed a Synod process, but please

know your feedback in the Disciple Maker Index will be invaluable in helping us understand how we can better serve each of you and our wider community.

In addition to the Disciple Maker Index, all active priests in our Diocese will reflect on their leadership and seek opportunities for growth through the Priest Leadership Inventory, a comprehensive assessment designed to foster individual development within our clergy. This self-reflection will lead to the creation of personalized growth plans, with support available from trained leadership coaches provided by CLI.

Throughout this initiative, we will also be gathering additional insights through one-on-one interviews with a small number of parishioners, engaging focus groups, and undertaking an envisioning process with CLI. This comprehensive approach will allow us to gather diverse perspectives and ensure that the final outcomes resonate with our entire diocesan family. This work will conclude by August of 2025.

I am excited about the potential fruits of these tools and initiatives. As we begin this process, I want you to specifically understand that I am not commissioning this project to close parishes. This is an effort to revitalize and grow our Catholic community in this Diocese. Even if our state is losing population, our Church can grow if we make a determined effort, through prayer and action, to reach out to our absent Catholics and to the many West Virginians with no religious affiliation. To that end, I am asking you to join me in this effort, and I have a specific request for you.

As a part of the process, each parish will assign a **parish point of contact person** who will be the liaison between the parish and the Catholic Leadership Institute as well as spearhead the sharing of information about the Disciple Maker Index process. Please prayerfully consider if this is a role you are being called to and, if it is, please inform your Pastor no later than Friday, November 1, 2024.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our Diocese as we strive to answer the Lord's call to evangelize all peoples. Together, through this partnership with the Catholic Leadership Institute, let us strive to grow as a vibrant and active community of disciples, living out our call to evangelize and serve Christ and our world.

May God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

