

A blessed feast day to all of you!

They tell the story of a visitor arriving in a medieval city in which the center of the town seemed to be under construction. There were hundreds of people working on a major project. The visitor approached the first man he saw and said, "tell me sir, what are you doing?" The worker paused and turned his perspired face to the visitor saying, "What am I doing? I am a debtor servant who is working every day in this heat trying to pay off what I owe. That's what I'm doing." The visitor approached a second man and asked the same thing, "What are you doing?" That man paused and lifted his chin in a sign of pride and said, "What am I doing? Why, I like my father and grandfather before me, am a guild mason, an artist of stone and brick. What I am doing is plying my trade on this important project for our community." Finally, the visitor spoke to a third man who seemed to be overseeing the project, and asked, "What are you doing?" That man turned, revealing a crucifix hanging on a chain around his neck, and said, "Why, I am the bishop of this city and we are building a cathedral here."

How you see yourself really changes what you see yourself doing. Vision makes all the difference in life ...and in church.

As you have seen, like those medieval workers, we are in the midst of renovating the church building upstairs. What I am asking you to see today is that we are also renovating the church IN that building – the Body of Christ right here, this Holy Communion of the Faithful!

I want you to see what I see for the future of our church community. I see a St. Albert Parish that is a church community renewed in its faith and experience of Communion. I see a St. Albert Parish that is a church community growing to include many more of the sisters and brothers that each of us cares about who are not currently worshipping here.

I see a St. Albert parish that is a church community in which every member becomes an inviting doorway through which at least "one Other person" enters into our Holy Communion Here.

That's what I see - a new Vision of St. Albert the Great Parish and I am calling it "Every One Add One" And I want you to see it with me. Because in seeing it – we can make all the difference in doing it.

This vision of our parish by the end of 2016 is intended to be seen by each of us because, if it is to become a reality, it will require each of us to do a little something as part of it. That something is to RENEW, to REFLECT and to REACH OUT.

TO RENEW: If every one of us is going to make an attractive and effective invitation to ONE other person to enter into our Holy Communion here by 2016 its going to mean that each of us personally "RENEW" our faith life here. That means that we must see faith lived in this community as the "center of our lives". If we don't see it that way – then we won't effectively live it that way, as missionary disciples of Church communion. And that's what we're called to be. Can you see your faith life here in that way? That's what it means to Renew!

TO REFLECT: If every one of us is going to make an attractive and effective invitation to ONE other person to enter into our Holy Communion here by 2016 not only must we each renew our relationship to Jesus Christ in this parish family BUT we will need to REFLECT upon just what our faith life here means to our personal life. Why does communion at St. Albert the Great matter to your life? What is that story – how do you see your

Catholic faith impacting your life positively here and now? Be able to tell that story. That's what it means to Reflect!

TO REACH OUT: If every one of us is going to make an attractive and effective invitation to one other person to enter into our Holy Communion here by 2016 each of us must see it as our responsibility to REACH OUT to that ONE person who we know would love a faith life lived here in communion at St. Albert. We have to identify that person, we have begin praying for that person's growth in faith, and when the time is right we need to share our story of faith with them and INVITE them to join us. That's what it means to REACH OUT!

That's it: Renew our personal faith commitment, Reflect upon faith's importance in our life, and Reach Out to one other person with a believable story of faith that matters. And invite. That's a vision. Every One Add One by 2016. Can you see what I'm saying?

Remember the last time you had a really great experience (at the doctors office, or movie theater, or a restaurant, or even with some new vitamin pill???) Remember thinking in the midst of that satisfaction, that you just had to tell so-in-so about it? We all do that. We all act as promoters of good things to those that we care about. We want to share our experience of joy or satisfaction with someone we care about. We all do that. Except when that "thing" is our Catholic faith.

What Every One Add One is is a vision of each of our members making THAT change in their lives. For each of us to renew our experience of joy and satisfaction in our Catholic faith lived here and to have the confidence and faith to share that satisfaction with someone we care about and thereby invite them to have that experience with us here.

Every One Add One.

I presented this Vision Every One Add One 2016 to the parish council and asked them to help make this vision a reality. They quickly responded by saying "Father, if every one is going to add one by 2016 then we need to do some renovation around here (and they weren't talking about the church building – but rather about building church!). They said,

- if we're going to turn our parishioners into inviters of others we've got to update the experience of worship around here,
- if we're going to turn our parishioners into inviters of others we have to update the way we are communicating the faith - especially to our children, and
- if we're going to turn our parishioners into inviters of others we need to multiply those who are ministering in the parish especially in those ministries of compassionate service.

They saw it very clearly and concluded , "If we renovate our parish life in these important ways – then our members will be more likely to invite someone they care about to join us in our experience of holy Communion here. Missionary Disciples of Holy Communion – that's Every One Add One 2016.

So that's where I see us going and that's how the parish council sees us getting there. That's Vision, Every One Add One. Can you see it? Imagine with me for a moment.....

Through a renovated, more welcoming, and more personal worship that promotes a deeper communion among the faithful here - can you see how our members might be turned into "inviters" ?

Through the growth of faith sharing activity, especially among small groups like “families with children” and “parishioners in neighborhoods”. can you see how our members might be turned into “inviters”

Through more members getting involved in parish ministries – especially those good works of charity and compassion – can you see how our members might be turned into “inviters”

That’s the picture, that’s the vision. Every One Add One. I can see that. My promise to you is that I will do my level best to keep this vision before our eyes and our ministry over the next two and a half years. My invitation and my challenge for you is that “you see it and, of course, having seen it – live it with me into the future. So, Every One Add One. Can you see it? It's inviting!

Please open your missalettes and help me conclude this preaching today by praying together our new Parish Communion Prayer.

O Communion of Love....