

# Parish Pastoral Council Prayer - Encounter

## Greeting

### Introduction

God has called each of us by name to be His sons and daughters through the gift of baptism. Pope Francis reminds us baptism comes with the responsibility to be a missionary disciple, sharing God's love with the world: "We look to Jesus, the Master who personally formed his apostles and disciples, as the model of evangelization. Christ gives us this method: 'Come and see' (Jn 1:46), 'Follow me' (Mt. 9:9), 'Remain in me' (Jn 15:4), and 'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations' (Mt 28:19). This method includes *encounter, accompany, community, and send*. This method is formation for missionary discipleship. It leads the believer to become a disciple and from there for the disciple to become a missionary" (*Living as Missionary Disciples*, 9). Today we will reflect on the first step: encounter. We know our encounter with Christ has transformed our lives. How do we share that with others?

### Reading (John 1:41-46)

Andrew first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). Then Andrew brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me."

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." John 1:41-46

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.**

### Encounter

"All Christians are invited to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ," just as the disciples encountered Him after the resurrection.

Reflection:

- How have I personally encountered Jesus? Who helped bring me to Jesus?
- How do I help others encounter Christ and grow in their relationship with Christ and his Church?

### Our Father

## **Prayer for the New Evangelization**

**Gracious and merciful God,  
we pray that through the Holy Spirit  
all Catholics may hear the call of the New Evangelization  
and seek a deeper relationship with your Son, Jesus.**

*We pray  
that the New Evangelization  
will renew the Church,  
inspiring all Catholics to “go forth and make disciples of all nations”  
and transform society through the power of the Gospel.*

**We pray  
for all members of the Church,  
that we heed the words of Christ  
—“do not be afraid”—  
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit’s gift of courage,  
give witness to the Gospel  
and share our faith with others.**

*We pray  
that we may become  
like the father of the prodigal son  
—filled with compassion  
for our missing brothers and sisters—  
and run to embrace them upon their return.*

**We pray  
that all people  
yearning to know Christ  
and the Church  
may encounter him through the faithful  
who witness to his love in their lives.**

*Loving God, our Father,  
strengthen us  
to become witnesses  
to the saving grace of your Son,  
Jesus, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

**Amen.**