



St. Ann Parish

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this letter as my strongest recommendation of a truly prophetic and powerful apostolate, Evangelical Catholic. This apostolate has radically transformed my vision for parish ministry and the call for the laity to be salt and light in the world.

St. Ann is a vibrant and active parish of 25,000+ registered parishioners with many ministries offered. Soon after I started on staff, I realized that although our ministries were bearing fruit, we were essentially trying to micromanage the spiritual lives of all these adult Catholics. Furthermore, even if we could effectively support all these ministries, the bigger issue was what we were unintentionally communicating to our parishioners...that if an adult Catholic wants to grow in faith and be an ideal parishioner, they have to participate more and more in internal parish programming. Instead, we were inspired to change the paradigm and become a parish where disciples were formed, equipped and sent to get busy being salt and light in the world.

I had often dreamed of creating a process of forming leaders and launching them into mission, especially small groups. At St. Ann's, we had been working on doing that. However, once we had reviewed the materials of EC's Reach More coaching system, it became clear that there was no further need to invest the time, human capital, or resources. The production quality of the formation videos, the accompanying workbook with discussion questions and practical workshops, as well as the relatable discipleship resources make Reach More an equipping program without peer. All this, on top of the fact that EC coaches you through the implementation so that it doesn't become another program, but rather scaling and adjusting to your particular needs and culture as a parish.

EC Reach More coaching and formation focuses on developing the Heart and Habits of a Disciple, helping any Catholic to discern their God-given personal apostolate and live a life on mission. Parishioners are personally invited and mentored to grow through daily mental prayer, meditating on relevant passages from Scripture, Church fathers, popes, and conciliar documents. EC's pedagogy for discipleship formation is a simple and replicable process. In addition, the mission formation is practical and is put to immediate use after each session. I've personally witnessed transformation in multiple graduates of Reach More who are now actively living on mission in the world.

The resource is available in both English and Spanish, which is important for St. Ann's as we desire a unified vision of discipleship and mission for both our English and Hispanic communities. Our aim is to grow leaders of all ages by training staff to be point people within their own ministries, making Reach More our go-to equipping tool for the entire parish.

If you have questions, or desire to learn more, please feel free to reach out: jschwartz@stannparish.org.

In Christ,

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