

## **Mission Plan/Update**

**Paul Michalenko, ST, PhD**

I am faculty and staff at Catholic Theological Union. I begin my fifth year. The school has approximately 450 students. 40% are seminarians while the remainder are religious and lay pursuing master's degrees in ministry. The school is very inter-cultural welcoming students from around the globe.

I direct the Institute of Religious Formation at Catholic Theological Union. I plan and oversee the program that trains religious men and women to be formation directors. This year I have seven participants from six different congregations and seven countries. I also teach the practicum classes in this program, assisting them in developing formation skills. I assist local formation directors in their interaction with CTU's faculty and staff. Many of the staff and faculty I work with are lay men and women called to this ministry of education. This year we are repeating a summer program entitled Critical Skills for Pastoral Leadership. I am coordinating and facilitating this program which is open to lay, religious and clergy. The intent of this program is to enhance the skills of pastoral leaders in areas of finance, mission integration, human resources, planning and visioning as well as fostering collaborative relationships.

In addition I have been appointed Post Novitiate Formation Director and expect to welcome four students in August. I have been busy getting the students accepted at CTU and DePaul University as well as furnishing the house and taking care of needed repairs.

I am an adjunct professor at Lewis University, a de La Salle Christian Brother school. I teach Stewardship and External Support to all lay classes (online) in the MA program for Organization Leadership. Most desire to change their work places into life-giving and empowering communities an outcome of their Christian vocation in the daily providence of their lives.

In my role as facilitator and organizational consultant I enter many organizations and assist them in moving forward into the future. Many of those organizations are religious congregations. A consistent aspect of renewal for them is the incorporation and collaboration with laity in their mission and ministry. Even in the restructuring processes laity is creatively included in both the process and the new structures that emerge. I am impressed by the openness of both religious and clergy to forge greater relationships in their mission.

Most of the laity that I encounter sees themselves as missionaries and apostles. They are often trying to find their rightful place in the church (or religious community) and the

world. It is exciting to see their commitment and insertion grow.

I have been available to a variety of Missionary Cenacle Family endeavors. I plan to continue doing the above, bringing the Missionary spirit of the laity to my ministry wherever possible.

Because I am in such a diverse non parochial ministry it is difficult to develop a plan along the schema provided. The challenge this year will be to welcome and integrate the students into Chicago and certainly the CTU community. The parish; St. James will provide numerous opportunities for ministry and outreach as will the required ministry practicum that are part of the program, here at CTU.

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