



YOU DON'T NEED ANOTHER PROGRAM
YOU NEED A
MOVEMENT

PROGRAMS **DWINDLE**. MOVEMENTS **GROW**.
PROGRAMS **INFORM**. MOVEMENTS **TRANSFORM**.
PROGRAMS **INVOLVE**. MOVEMENTS **EVANGELIZE**.

REACH MORE

WE NEED A
MOVEMENT THAT
CHANGES THE
TIDE



30%

Americans raised Catholic that are still “practicing,” meaning they attend Mass at least once a month.*



38%

Americans raised Catholic that rarely attend Mass but still consider themselves to be Catholic.*



32%

Americans raised Catholic that no longer consider themselves to be Catholic at all.*



The Church is bleeding, badly. The only thing we do is wait for people to come to it. If we don’t start outreach we will simply lose more and more people.

Fr. Xavier Lavagetto, O.P.

Director of Campus Ministry and Pastor of EC Alliance: Catholic Community at Stanford University

* 2008 Pew Religious Landscape Survey



WOMEN'S MARCH
WENDY

Wendy has no religious background but is committed to good causes. Her social network is expansive, but she has never met a committed Catholic that she respected. She doesn't see the value of religion but cares deeply about people.



MECHANIC
JOE

Joe goes to Mass most Sundays out of a sense of obligation. He has a distant relationship with the Church and with God, but feels it's his duty to show up.



MILLENNIAL
MATT

Matt's parents had him baptized at Deer Hills Church as a baby to appease his grandparents. After that, his parents very rarely brought him to any church. He has never connected with any religion in a personal way. He doesn't see what good it will do for him.



CHREASTER
CATHY

Cathy grew up Catholic but now only goes to Mass on Christmas and Easter. The holidays wouldn't feel right without going to Mass. She recently had her first child and is pondering getting him baptized by the priest.

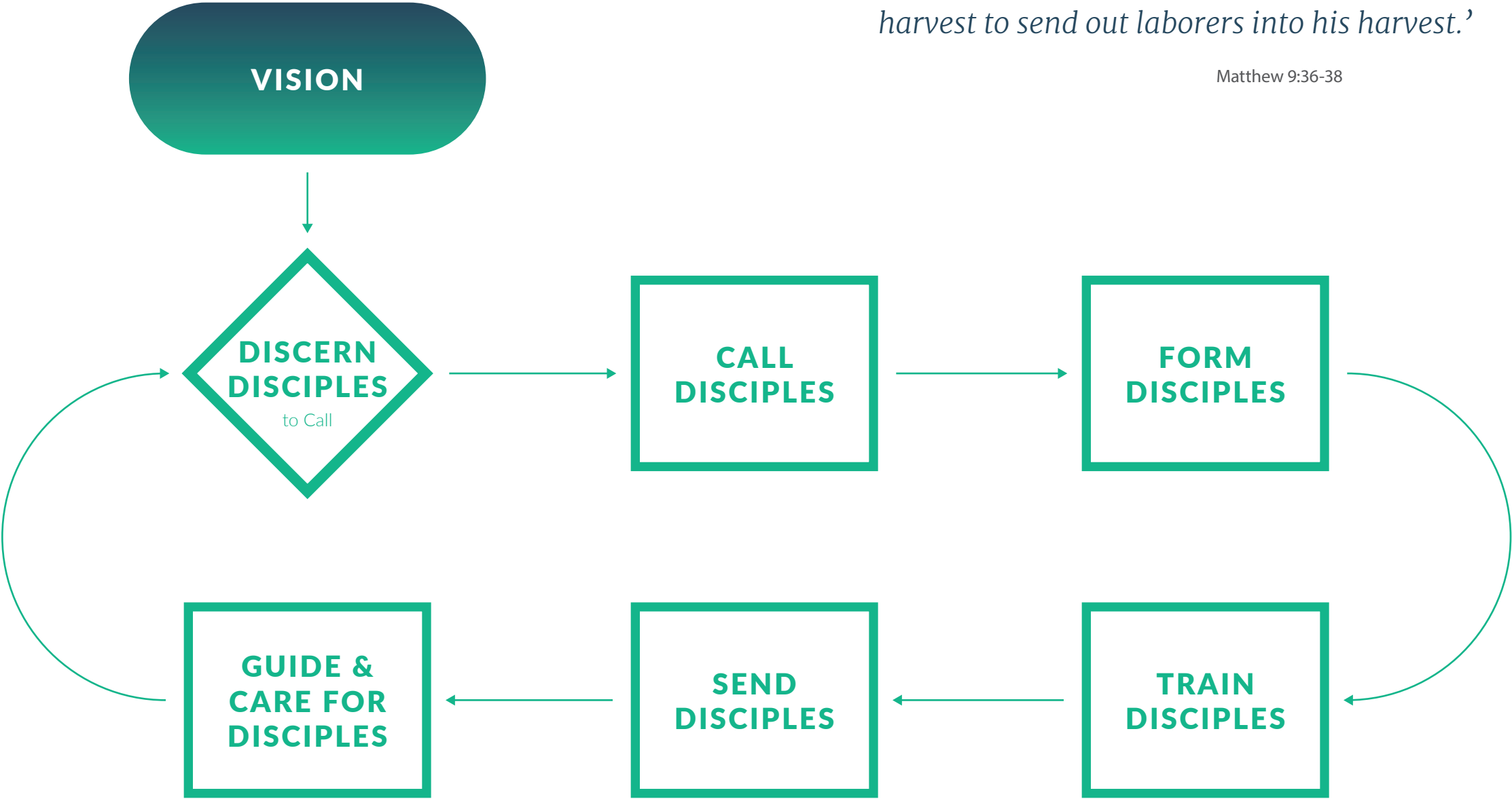
HOW DO WE *REACH MORE?*



THE MISSION PROCESS OF JESUS

Jesus was intentional throughout his ministry, following a particular process in order to begin drawing the world back to communion with the Father. He certainly could have dazzled hundreds of thousands at a time by stopping the movement of the sun or moving a mountain from Asia to Mesopotamia. He could have taken control of the Roman Empire through might and power and used all of its influence and resources to spread his good news.

Knowing that he had just a few years, Jesus chose to devote much of his time and attention to a small group of followers. He lived with them, loved them, and apprenticed them individually. By investing heavily in a few who could carry on the mission, Jesus mobilized the power of multiplication in intimate relationships. Those the Lord chose learned his ministry methods well. Small groups and individual apprenticeship became hallmarks of the early Church's exponential growth.



When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’

Matthew 9:36-38

EVANGELIZATION THAT REACHES THE PERIPHERIES

The local Catholic parish has the mission, given by Jesus himself, to reach Wendy, Matt, Cathy, and Joe with his good news. But they are outside the parish's influence. They will not come to programs. The Church must go to them.

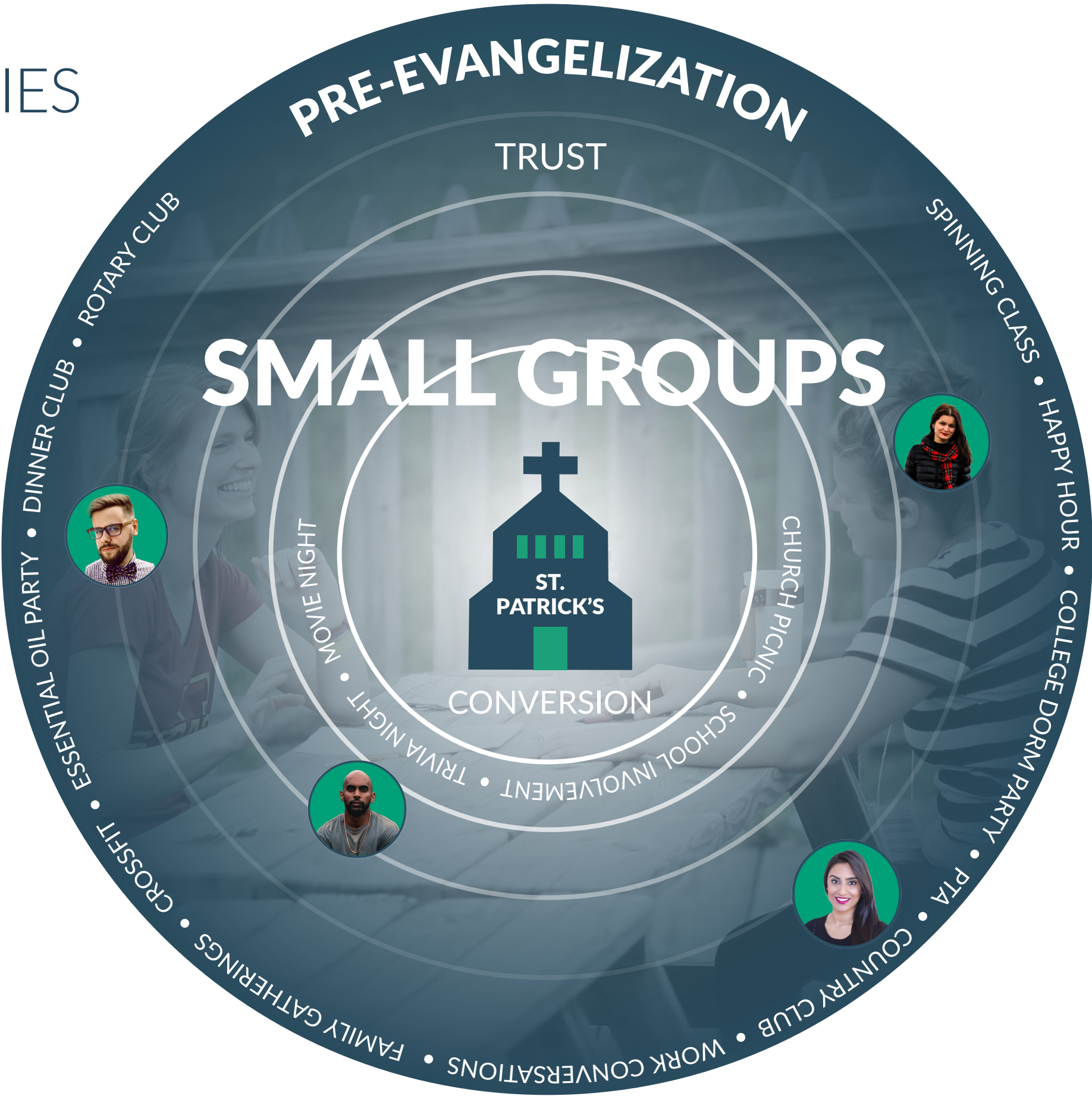
In fact, the Church is already there! One parishioner is Wendy's neighbor, another is Matt's co-worker, another is Cathy's teammate, and another is Joe's brother.

Catholic laity are baptized, confirmed, and fed by Jesus in the Eucharist for this mission. But it is difficult. In addition to being strong disciples, they must be smart in communicating their story, sensitive in sharing truth, and courageous in conversation. This mission, unique to lay people, requires robust formation and training.

The Evangelical Catholic provides the tools and expertise to empower lay people to bridge these communication gaps and reach their friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family. We help the parish equip laity to launch evangelization small groups in homes so that parishioners have a place to invite Wendy, Matt, Cathy, and Joe when they are ready.

Evangelization is a patient process where the Holy Spirit inspires incremental progress in people's lives. It may be years before Wendy trusts her neighbor enough to come to her small group, but her Catholic neighbor will have a sacramental life and a commitment to prayer that gives her patient perseverance as God's plan for Wendy unfolds.

This is the movement of lay people in the world that will reach the peripheries and draw many into the life of Jesus and his mysterious presence in the Church. This is the movement that every parish and campus ministry is called to fuel. The Evangelical Catholic exists to inspire, train, and support ministries as they take up this charge.



MOVEMENTS GROW

Movements are inspired and animated by the Holy Spirit. Numbers cannot be predicted. However, numbers can demonstrate fruitfulness. We expect growth over multiple years because that seems to be the trend across the ministries with whom we work. However, we discourage ministries from being too attached to numbers as their primary metric of fruitfulness. The deeper fruitfulness is shown in changed lives, healed marriages, greater spiritual engagement with liturgies, and more passionate engagement in sharing God’s justice and mercy with the least of these among us (Matthew 25). We may work together to plant and water, but the Holy Spirit brings the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6).

*I’ve been waiting five years to do ministry in this way.
It’s not a program but a culture we’re creating.*

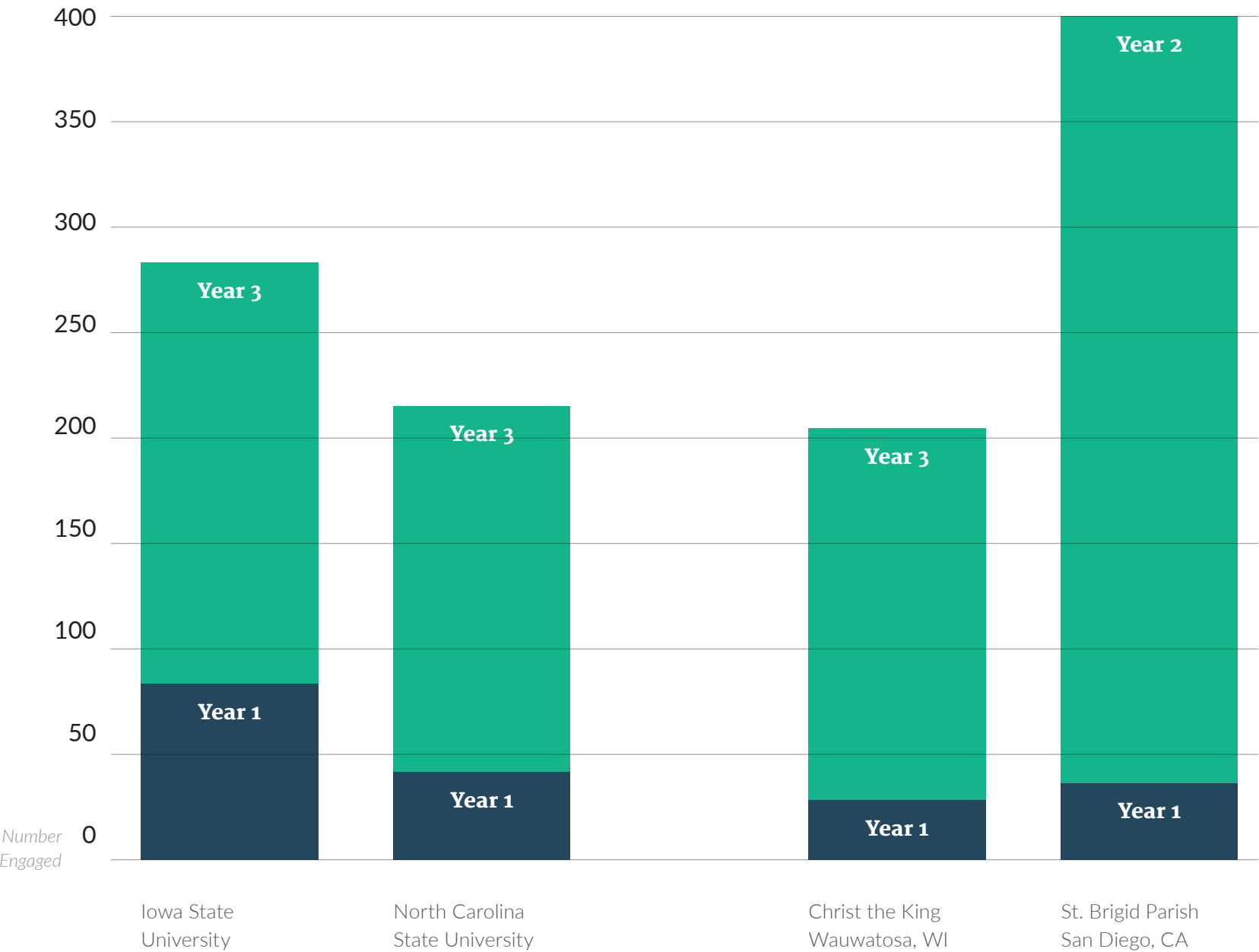
Rachel Espinoza
Point Person, St. Clement
Reach More™ Pilot Parish
Archdiocese of Chicago

By teaming with the Evangelical Catholic we have given our ministry a strong focus and an intentional path for our ministry to travel. Our students are on a mission with a purer intention, and with the practical knowledge of how to evangelize in our world.

Fr. Simon Felix Michalski, O.P.
Director of Catholic Campus Ministry
Indiana University

The fruit that I am seeing of the Evangelical Catholic at St. Gabriel Parish is abundant. Our parish council has been eager to learn the principles underlying the Evangelical Catholic and has begun to ‘dream new dreams and see new visions.’

Fr. Larry Seidl
Pastor, St. Gabriel Parish
Neenah, WI



CAMPUS MINISTRIES

PARISHES



A LETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Evangelical Catholic's mission has always been on the front lines of the Church's ministries of evangelization: parishes and university campus ministries in almost every corner of the United States.

Our vision is to see all of these ministries fully awake to the urgent need for the Gospel in their communities, and equipped to do something about it. Every local leader can and should know how, step-by-step, to reach further into the existential peripheries.

We labor to help Catholic pastoral leaders dedicate “all their energies to a new evangelization” (St. John Paul II), confident that as the Church re-awakens to our “essential mission,” every strata of humanity will be renewed from within (Pope Paul VI).

Jason J. Simon, M.Div.
Executive Director