

OA Orientation about Parish Development

This is to give you a sense of our stance. Our bias and assumptions. These are just a few examples.
Michelle Heyne, OA & Robert Gallagher, OA

Organic vs institutional or movement

An energy not its own, C. Williams

Power from the center pervades the whole, M. Thornton

One's first duty is adoration, and one's second duty is awe and only one's third duty is service, E. Underhill

The stream of redemptive power flows out, W. Temple

Dense organizational culture that leaves a beneficial mark vs. thin culture that is more comfortable for the many

Our assumption is that cultural density makes for a richer, deeper parish life. It is the weaving together of various threads in such a manner that the organization has a powerful solidity; an effective managing of adaptability and organizational identity and integrity. Think quilt, not sheet. Think thick, not thin. The elements of the system reinforce each other. M. Heyne & R. Gallagher

Appreciative stance vs the perfect, a vision

We start with the assumption that the Holy Spirit has been alongside this parish and that there are gifts brought about due to the influence of the Paraclete. We begin by seeking to build upon, expand and grow those gifts. We begin with the artifacts of the parish as it is now – practices, language system, way of being and doing things. Change is building upon that and expanding it by nurturing Anglicanism's ethos.

The parish as a microcosm of the Body of Christ

The parish church, in itself, bears the nature and purpose of the church. All the marks of that nature are present—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. All the images that point to its identity and dynamics are present—People of God, the vine, bride, and especially, Body of Christ. The parish is not a division of the Body, it is the Body in microcosm. It helps to take care with our language. It isn't that we are *becoming* the Body of Christ. Nor is it that we "should" work at becoming one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The church *has come into being by God's call*. We are the Body of Christ

Sacramental mediation vs. personal relationship with Jesus

We are able to live this journey not only because of others, but together with others. In the Church there is no "do it yourself", there are no "free agents". ... At times one hears someone say: "I believe in God, I believe in Jesus, but I don't care about the Church...". How many times have we heard this? And this is not good. There are those who believe they can maintain a personal, direct and immediate relationship with Jesus Christ outside the communion and the mediation of the Church. These are dangerous and harmful temptations. These are, as the great Paul VI said, absurd dichotomies. It is true that walking together is challenging, and at times can be tiring: it can happen that some brother or some sister creates difficulties, or shocks us.... But the Lord entrusted his message of salvation to a few human beings, to us all, to a few witnesses; and it is in our brothers and in our sisters, with their gifts and limitations, that he comes to meet us and make himself known. And this is what it means to belong to the Church. Remember this well: to be Christian means belonging to the Church." Pope Francis