

Four Core Frameworks

Used in the Church Development Institute (CDI)

The Renewal – Apostolate Cycle

The Renewal - Apostolate Cycle is a way of describing a central dynamic of Christian life. The Cycle focuses our attention on the Christian's movement between being renewed in baptismal identity and purpose and living as instruments of God's love and grace in daily life. The Cycle is interested in both the individual's movement and in the ways in which the parish church supports and facilitates that movement. This is the primary task of any parish church.

RENEWAL

Renewal in baptismal identity and purpose in worship, study and being equipped, for Christian action



APOSTOLATE

Participation in the work of Christ in service, evangelization and stewardship

In areas of:

- Workplace
- Family & Friends
- Civic Life
- Church



A Cycle

The cycle is between a conscious and intentional attention to God, prayer life, our relationships, Christian formation **and** a subconscious reliance upon God as members of the Body of Christ, in the workplace, family, civic life and congregational life.

In that Cycle:

We need:

To accept our dependence on God

To accept responsibility for ordering our spiritual life

To accept our interdependence with others in the Church

Which is helped by:

Openness to spiritual guidance

Establishing a rule of life

Life in Christian community, a parish church

Which the parish helps by:

An emphasis in its life on worship; nothing comes before the Eucharist and Daily Office. Also, more attention to formation and spiritual growth than other programs or ministries.

Offering programs and guidance in creating, experimenting with, and revising a spiritual discipline.

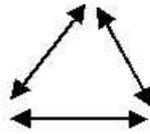
Being a healthy and faithful parish church and by helping people relate to the parish community in ways appropriate to their personality and the parish's capacities.

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The Benedictine Promise: Overview

The three elements of the Benedictine Promise, and the whole of Benedictine spirituality, can help us see some of the hidden dynamics of parish life.

CONVERSION OF LIFE As a parish we find God on our journey together and in the new places we will go as a parish; in losing life to find life; in our openness to transformation.



STABILITY As a parish we find God here and now in the relationships and pattern of our life together.

OBEDIENCE As a parish we find God as we listen deeply to the world; to Scriptures; to the church, now and through the ages; to each other; to the creation; and to the deepest longings and prayer of our heart.

Benedictine spirituality is part of our Anglican DNA. It's the way of the Prayer Book and is embedded in much of the way we function as parish communities. We can make use of it in the work of congregational development: 1) as a way to see and enter into the depth of our own culture as Episcopalians and 2) because it is the spirituality of particular communities that have developed a capacity, over time, to maintain their integrity while renewing themselves in adaptation to the environment.

Look at the dynamics of parish life

You might think in terms of the whole parish or of a specific event or experience.

- What is the predisposition you see in the parish's behavior toward stability, change, or listening processes? Which direction do we generally tilt towards? Which is our anxiety often focused upon?
- In the parish's expression of stability, conversion of life, and obedience what seems healthy to you, what unhealthy? Is the stability simply being static? Is the conversion simply being driven by an impulse to change? Is the obedience endless listening and process or too little listening?

Develop a parish culture that is marked by:

Stability – Especially seen in Liturgy, prayer and relationships.

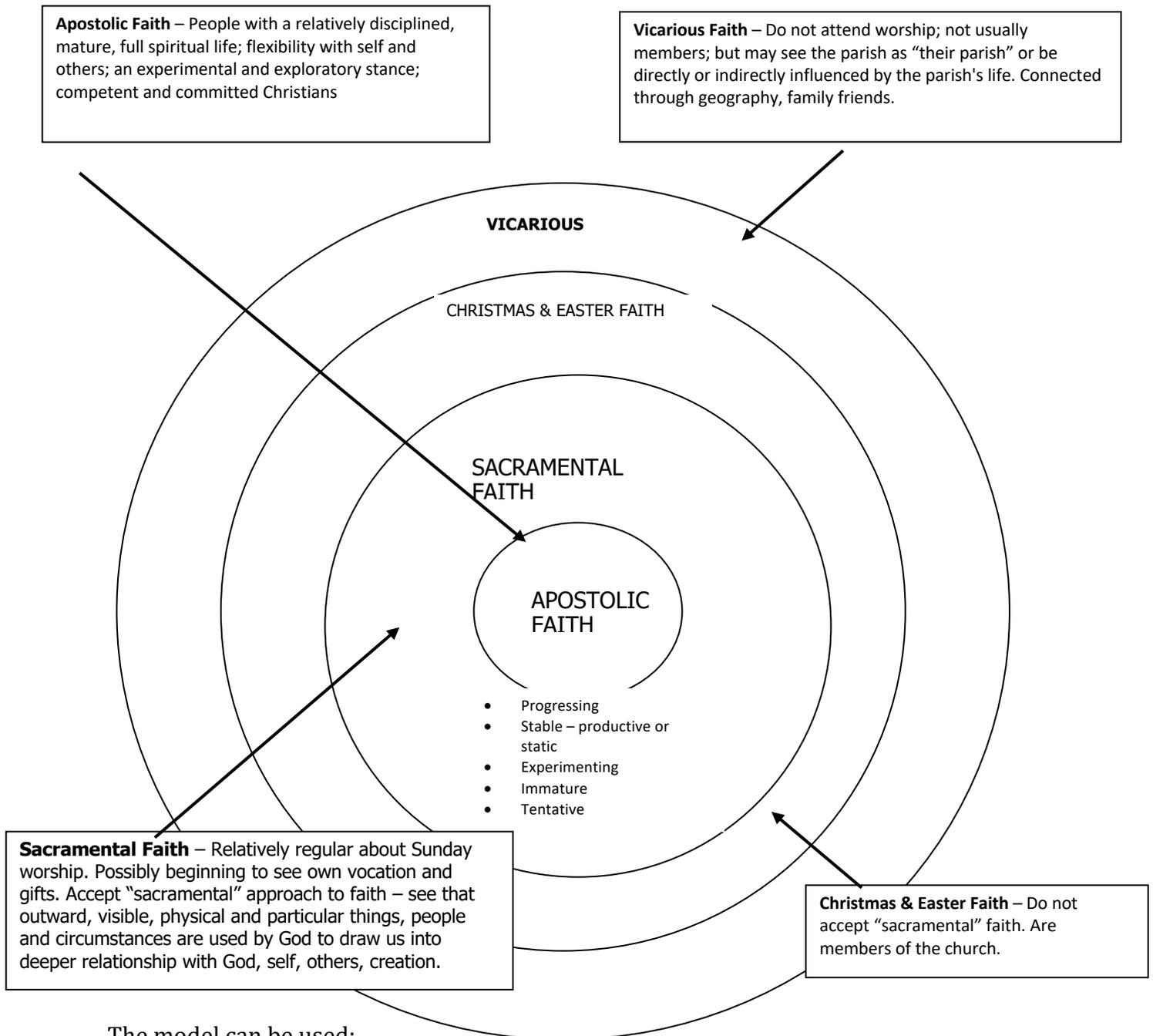
Obedience – Seen in our openness to listen to, and respond to, one another, our bishop and the larger church.

Conversion of Life – Out of our life of stability or obedience we see and act on new challenges and opportunities for mission and building up the Body of Christ.

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For more on the model see Robert Gallagher's *Fill All Things: The Dynamics of Spirituality in the Parish Church*, Ascension Press, 2008

The Shape of the Parish: A Diagram Overview



The model can be used:

- To assess the health of a parish, and
- In developing a strategy that deepens the parish's spiritual life, while staying open the various places people are in their faith journey.

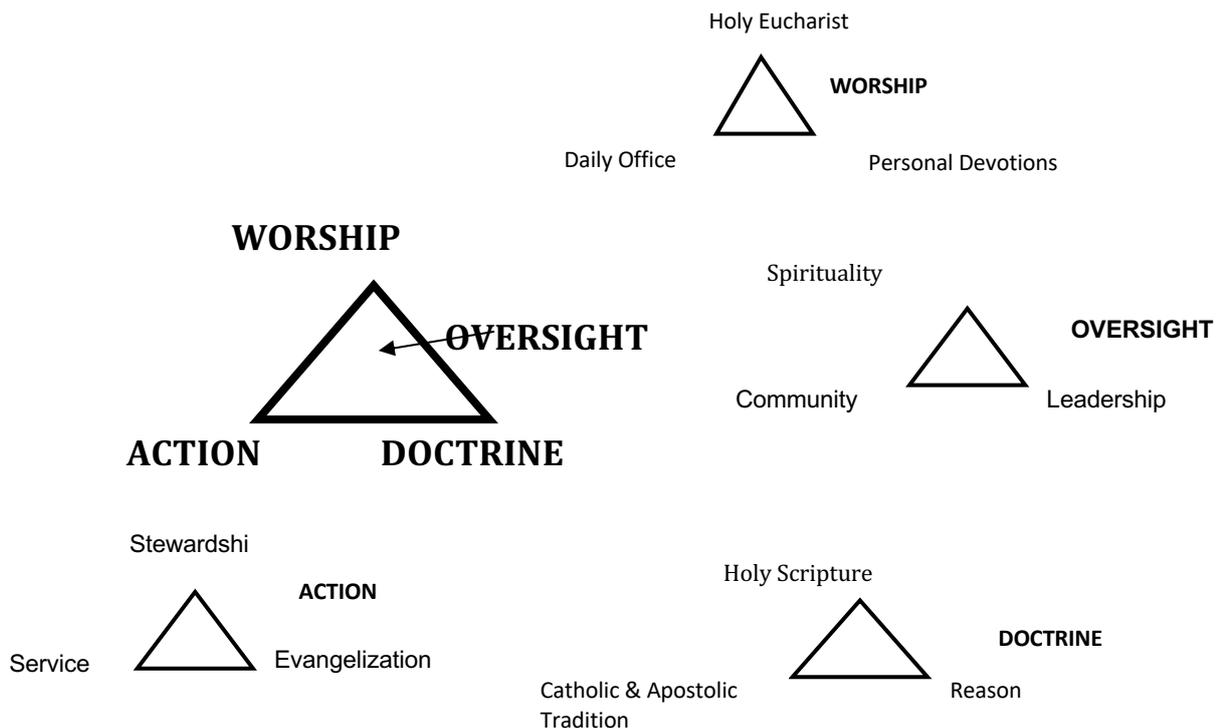
Copyright "Shape of the Parish" Diagram -- Robert A. Gallagher/Mary Anne Mann, 1983; Revised RAG 1999, 2003 For more on the model see Robert Gallagher's *Fill All Things: The Dynamics of Spirituality in the Parish Church*, Ascension Press, 2008

The Christian Life Model: A Diagram Overview

In a world where carpenters get resurrected, everything is possible.
Eleanor in *The Lion in Winter*

For many years Mother Mary Laney was vicar of Saint Gabriel’s Church in the Olney neighborhood of Philadelphia. Olney is a community of African Americans, Asians, Arabs, Africans, Hispanics, and some whites, the remains of a once large German American population. It’s one of the most diverse communities in Philadelphia. It’s also a community struggling with crime, affordable housing, and employment. It was a small parish dependent on the diocese for assistance, serving the Olney community with efforts of community organizing, employment and education, and holding together a diverse membership. Saint Gabriel’s had a motto “With God all things are possible”. What held them together and allowed them to move forward in service? Liturgy and prayer were certainly at the heart of it. Another one of the tools Mary Laney used was this Christian Life Model. It offered a way of thinking about the elements and dynamics of life in a Christian community.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE MODEL



- Each element is a way in which Christ comes to us and in which we seek Christ. Each is an entry into, and participation in, the unity to which we are called. In them we are called into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ - the heart of Christ, the mind of Christ, the work of Christ.
- The model can be used by parishes for self assessment, as a framework for planning, as a way to focus the parish on the essentials of the Christian life, and as a resource to individuals in shaping a Rule of Life. Each triangle is a system of mutual influence in which the elements strengthen and impact the other elements.

Copyright Robert A. Gallagher, 1985, 2006 For more on the model see Robert Gallagher’s *Fill All Things: The Dynamics of Spirituality in the Parish Church*, 2006 and *Power from on High: A Model for Parish Life and Development*, 1982