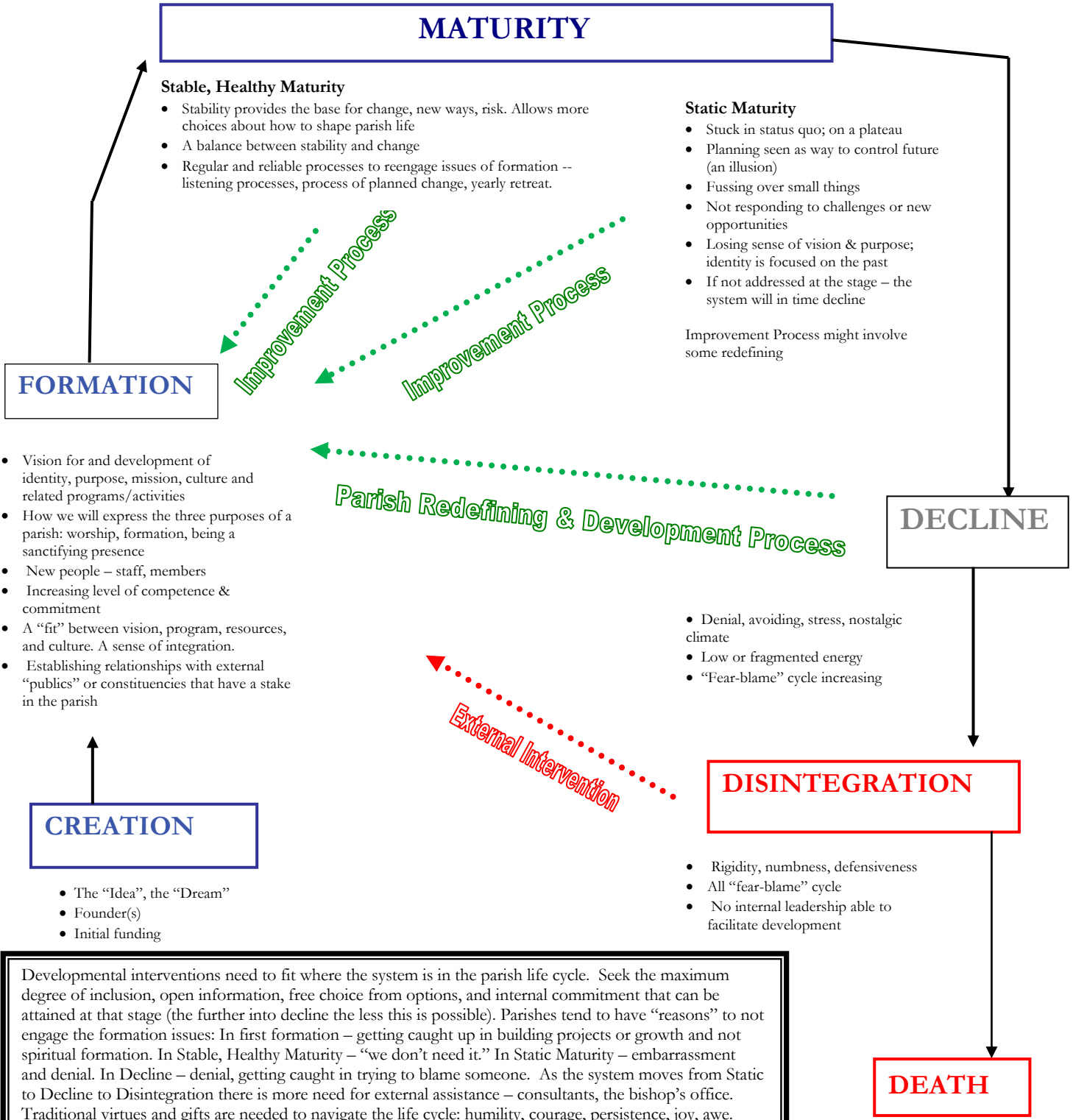


PARISH LIFE CYCLE



Developmental interventions need to fit where the system is in the parish life cycle. Seek the maximum degree of inclusion, open information, free choice from options, and internal commitment that can be attained at that stage (the further into decline the less this is possible). Parishes tend to have "reasons" to not engage the formation issues: In first formation – getting caught up in building projects or growth and not spiritual formation. In Stable, Healthy Maturity – "we don't need it." In Static Maturity – embarrassment and denial. In Decline – denial, getting caught in trying to blame someone. As the system moves from Static to Decline to Disintegration there is more need for external assistance – consultants, the bishop's office. Traditional virtues and gifts are needed to navigate the life cycle: humility, courage, persistence, joy, awe. Also, skills: listening, discernment, building trust, leadership.

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