

Parish Pastoral Councils

Immaculate Conception Parish

&

St. Theodore Mission

Our Mission Statement:

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The Second Vatican Council

- . Decree on Apostolate of Lay People #26: "In dioceses, as far as possible, councils should be set up to assist the church's apostolic work, whether in the field of evangelization and sanctification or in the fields of charity, social relations and the rest..."
- . Such councils should be established too, if possible, at parochial, inter-parochial, inter-diocesan level and also on the national and international planes.

Parish Council

- advisory capacity to pastor
- task-oriented
- various committees staffed by elected council members who invested a great deal of time and energy in creating and funding programs
- Made it happen

Parish Pastoral Council

- more than just the addition of a word
- an entirely new role
- focus not on specific programs and implementation, but a body which leads the parish community in discernment and expression of its mission.

Parish Pastoral Council

- Role is ongoing pastoral planning/visioning
- maintain the integrity of the parish mission and the goals and objectives related to it.
- Programs still take place through the efforts of many dedicated parishioners, always within context of parish mission and pastoral plan.

Toward a New Model

From	To
Parish Council	Parish Pastoral Council
A Body of Leaders	A Leadership Body
Coordinating Ministries	Articulating the Mission
Crisis Management	Pastoral Planning
Doing Activities	Empowering and Oversight
Business and Politics	Prayer and Discernment
Competition	Collaboration
Voting	Consensus

Pastoral Council Leadership

- Gifts necessary for pastoral leadership:
 - a desire for spiritual growth in oneself and the parish
 - enthusiasm about the future of the parish
 - eagerness to facilitate parish decisions about its direction
 - courage to work toward consensus
 - capacity to listen outweighing the need to speak
 - integrity in articulating what one has heard and what one believes
 - the ability to inspire and empower
 - a willingness to delegate
 - flexibility and openness with people and ideas

The Basics

- Prayer

The parish is a community of people who believe in Jesus, who listen to the "Good News" and try to live it out, and who celebrate and pray together.

- Consensus

is a group process for decision making in which all come to a common understanding and agree to support the decision of the whole

Consensus: What is it?

- Consensus is a group process for decision making in which ALL come to a common understanding and agree to support the decision of the whole.

What are the 'non-negotiables' of consensus?

Consensus

- is built on prayer
- seeks the will of God, not "my" will
- is based on mutual trust among persons making the decision
- honors the teachings of the Scriptures and the Church

What is not involved

Consensus does not involve

- majority rule (no votes taken)
- compromise (people don't give in to keep the peace)
- competition (no winners, no losers)
- quick decisions
- dependence on the leader

The Four Steps of Consensus

1. Input

- Issue is clearly stated
- Background information is presented
- Opportunity for clarification is given

The Four Steps of Consensus

2. Discussion

- Facilitator introduces issue, others respond. Facilitator keeps discussion on topic
- When most viewpoints have been expressed, facilitator tests for consensus.

The Four Steps of Consensus

3. Reflection

- Does what is proposed support the Gospel?
- In light of the parish mission statement, will this be good for the entire parish?
- Can each of us live with and support this?

The Four Steps of Consensus

4. Review

- Summarize the issue, basic background, areas of agreement and disagreement, statement of consensus reached.
- If there is no consensus, continue to discuss the problematic areas.

What if consensus is difficult?

- . If the decision is "going in circles," drop the matter and continue the meeting. Return to issue later.
- . If there seems to be missing information, do further research and gather more data before continuing. Postpone.

What if I am the one who is outside the circle of agreement?

- Are you considering what is best for all?
- Do you understand all the data presented?
- Have you carefully justified your reasons for disagreeing?
- Can you say, "Well, I don't agree completely, but I see the validity of your position and I can live with that?"

Attitudes

HARMFUL	HELPFUL
rigidity of opinions	openness
hostile or suspicious attitude	honesty
determination to win	respect for the truth in everyone
sabotaging the process	patience
"What do we have to do it this way?"	enthusiastic support for outcome

When Consensus is used

- . Only when discerning major decisions that are intended to establish goals and objectives for the future
- . Not with regard to operational issues or day-to-day decisions. (but most of these issues aren't brought to the council anyway.)

Roles & Responsibilities

Pastor

Delegate of the bishop
Responsible for the overall
life of the parish
Link between and among
parish team, finance council
and pastoral council

Administration

Consultation

Pastoral Team

Delegate of the pastor
Accountable to the pastor alone
Responsible for day-to-day ministry
according to job description

Parish Finance Council

With pastor, responsible for managing budget,
facilities, and development efforts based on goals and
objectives of parish pastoral plan

Visioning and Planning

Support/Resource

Support/Resource

Parish Pastoral Council

With pastor, responsible for long-range pastoral planning
affecting the whole of parish life
Supported and assisted by parish team and finance council

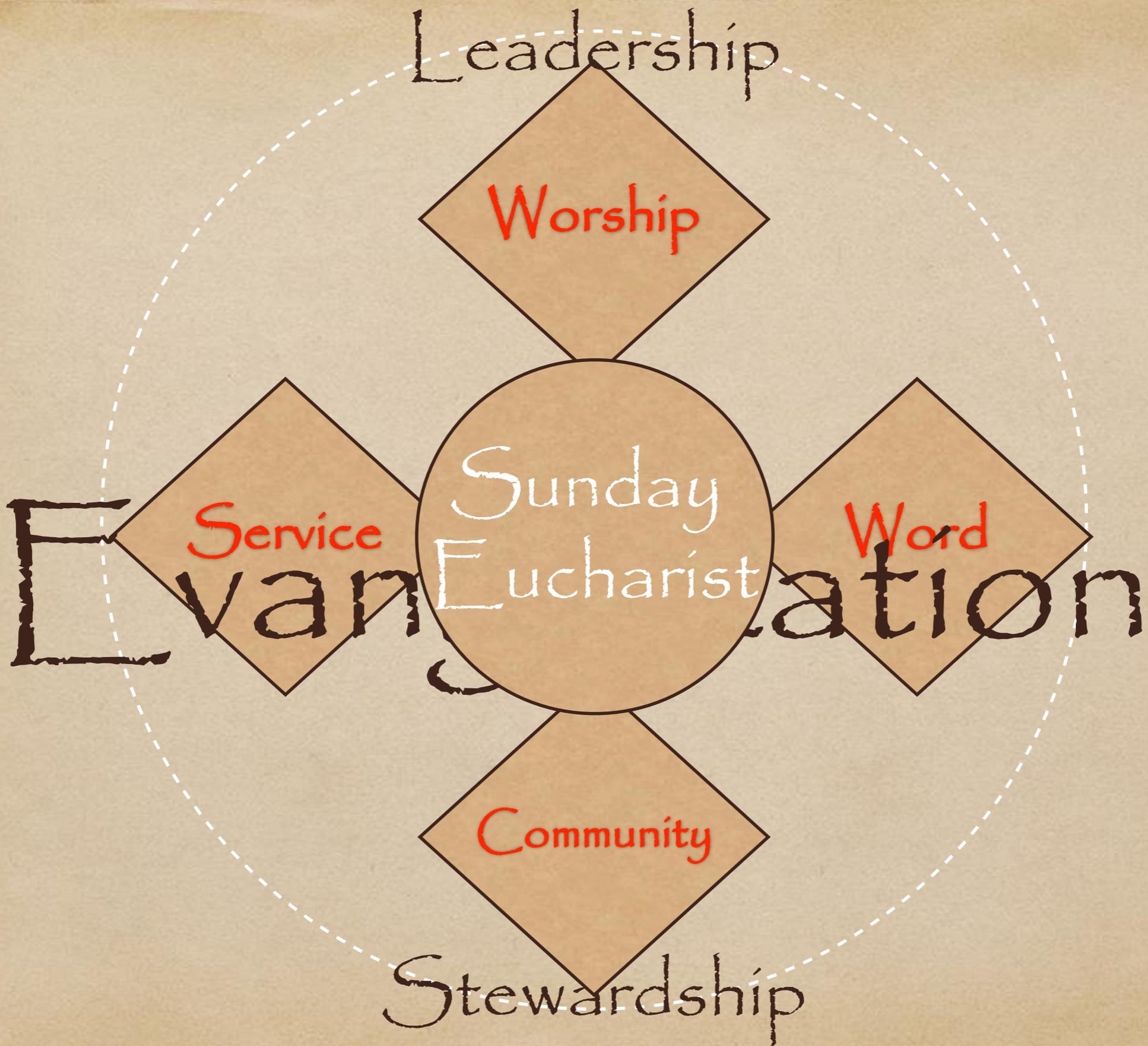
Parish Roles/Responsibilities

	Parish Administration	Pastoral Council	Finance Council
Pastor's Role	oversees daily operations	Presides over	Presides over
Membership	hired or appointed	selected thru discernment process	appointed
Focus	day to day ministry	long-range pastoral planning	long range financial planning
Areas of Responsibility	matters pertaining to job description	matters pertaining to the life of the whole parish: essential elements	matters pertaining to budget, facilities, development

Parish Roles/Responsibilities

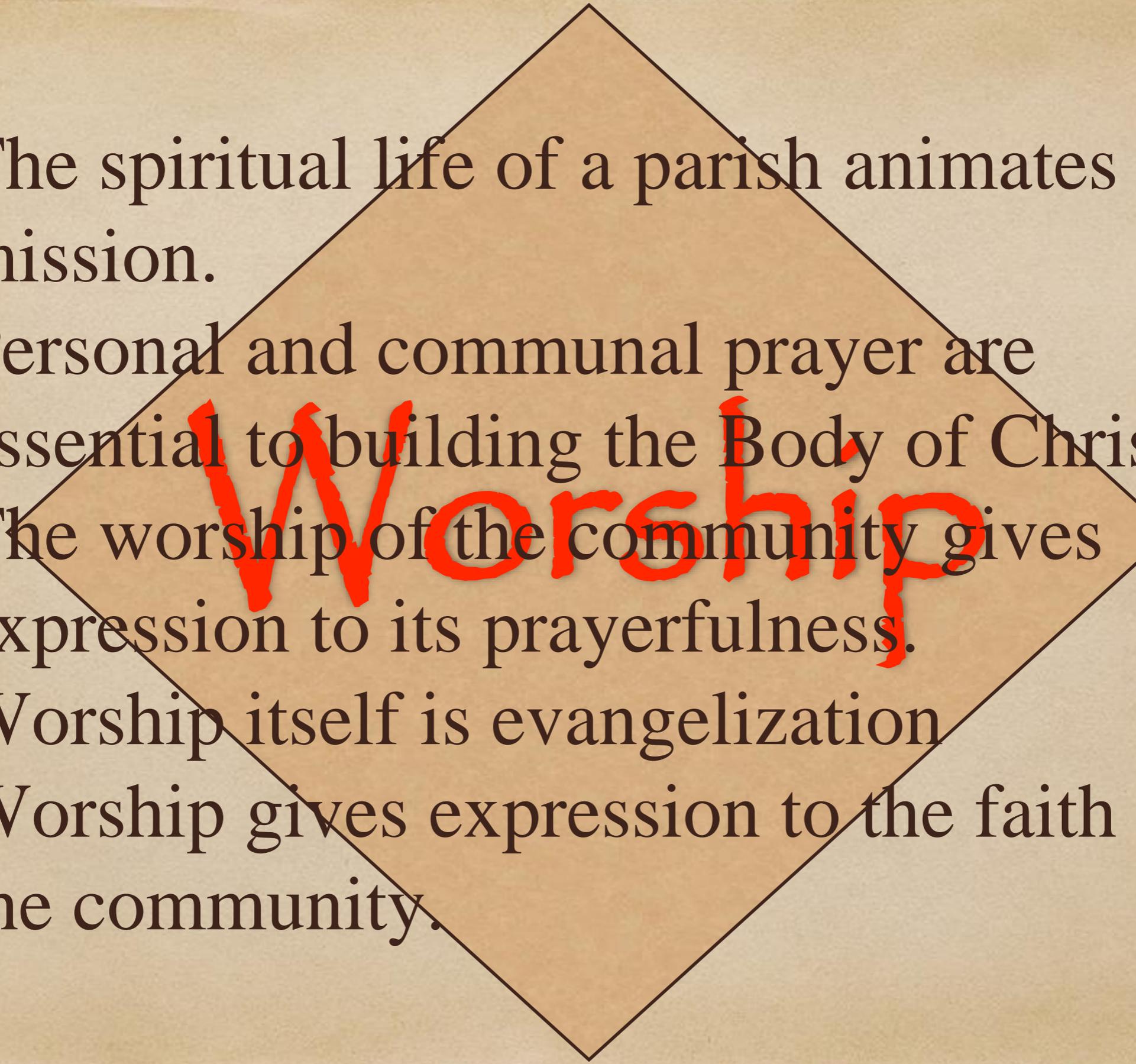
	Parish Administration	Pastoral Council	Finance Council
Relationship to Pastoral Plan	assists as resource	develops, monitors, and evaluates	assists as resource
Relationship to Pastor	accountable to pastor	consultative to pastor	consultative to pastor
Method of decision making	by consensus when appropriate	by consensus	by consensus when appropriate

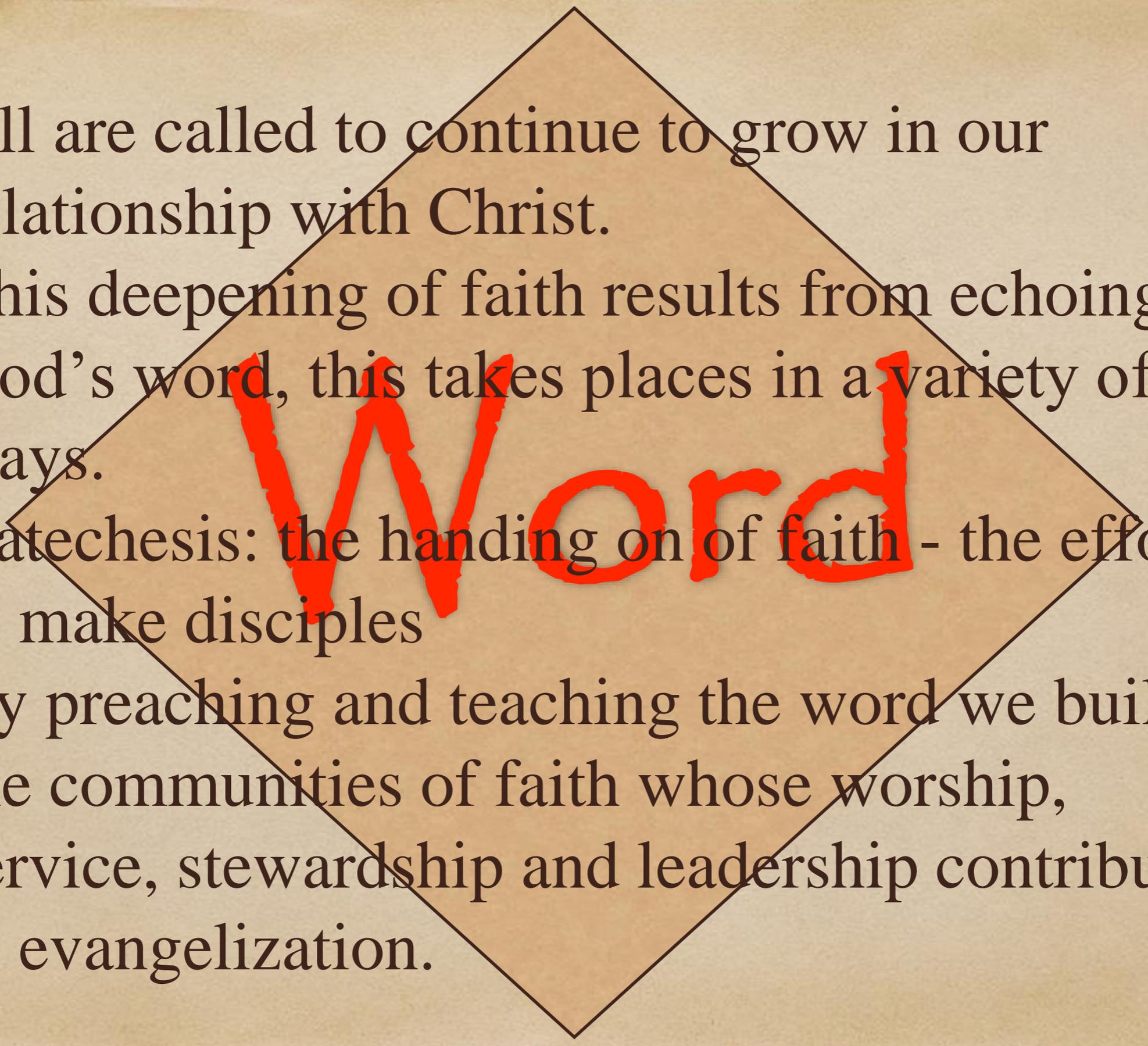
The Seven Essential
Elements of Parish Life



Evangelization

- any way in which a parish continues to spread the Good News of Jesus, especially through the personal and communal sharing of faith.
- **This proclamation of the message of Christ is the fundamental mission of the Church and every parish and touches every aspect of parish life.**
- Every aspect of parish life contributes to the unfolding of the Kingdom of God through witnessing to the gospel values.

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- The spiritual life of a parish animates its mission.
 - Personal and communal prayer are essential to building the Body of Christ.
 - The worship of the community gives expression to its prayerfulness.
 - Worship itself is evangelization
 - Worship gives expression to the faith of the community.

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- All are called to continue to grow in our relationship with Christ.
 - This deepening of faith results from echoing God's word, this takes places in a variety of ways.
 - Catechesis: the handing on of faith - the effort to make disciples
 - By preaching and teaching the word we build the communities of faith whose worship, service, stewardship and leadership contribute to evangelization.

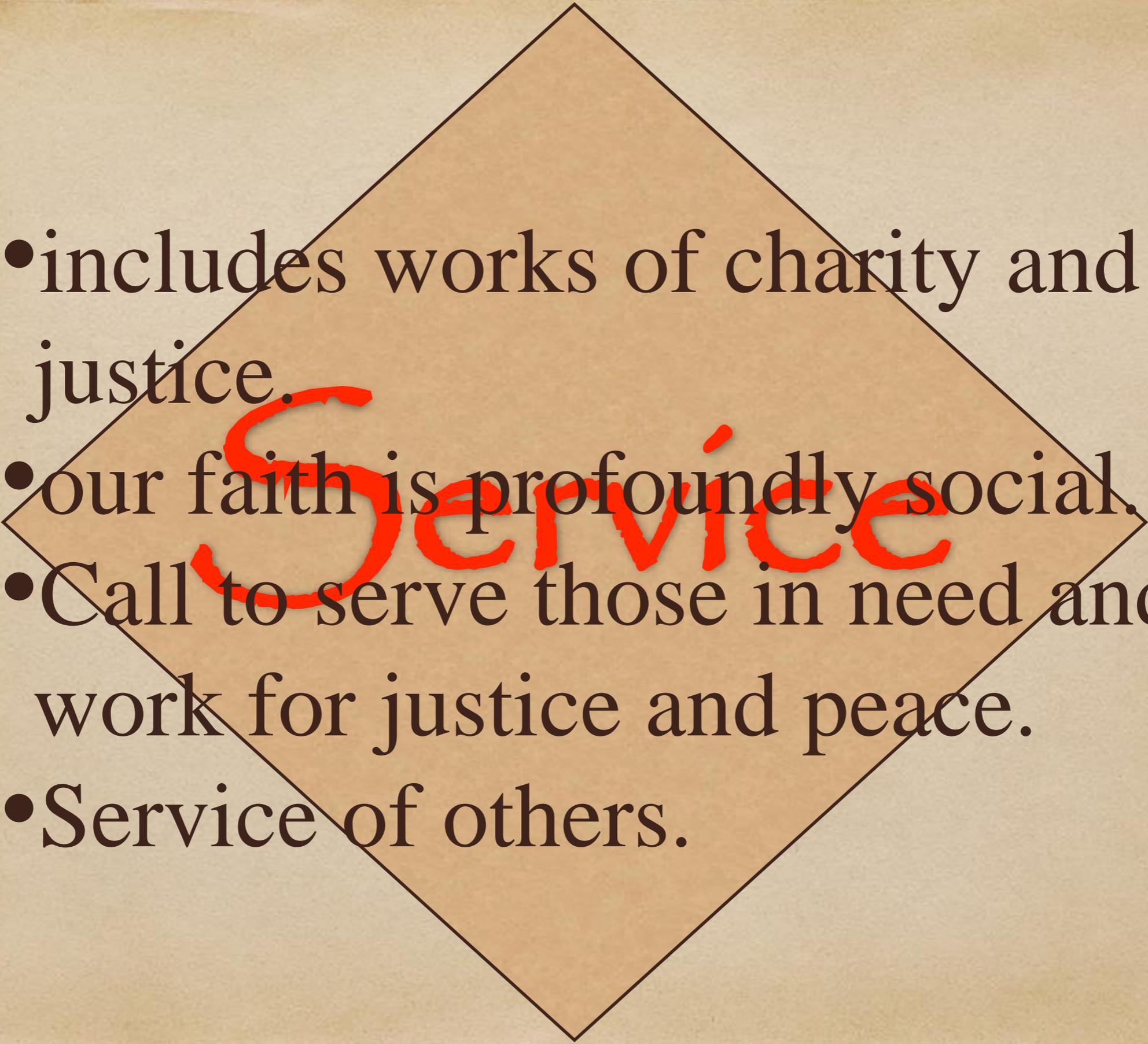


Word

- The spreading of the word takes place in many formal and informal ways:
 - adult, youth, and children's education and spiritual formation
 - RCIA
 - Sacramental Preparation
 - Family Formation
 - Sunday homilies

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- drawing parishioners together in mutual support, activity, celebrating and growth.
 - The parish is a place where everyone belongs
 - inclusivity and mutuality are hallmarks of community
 - All are Welcome!

Community

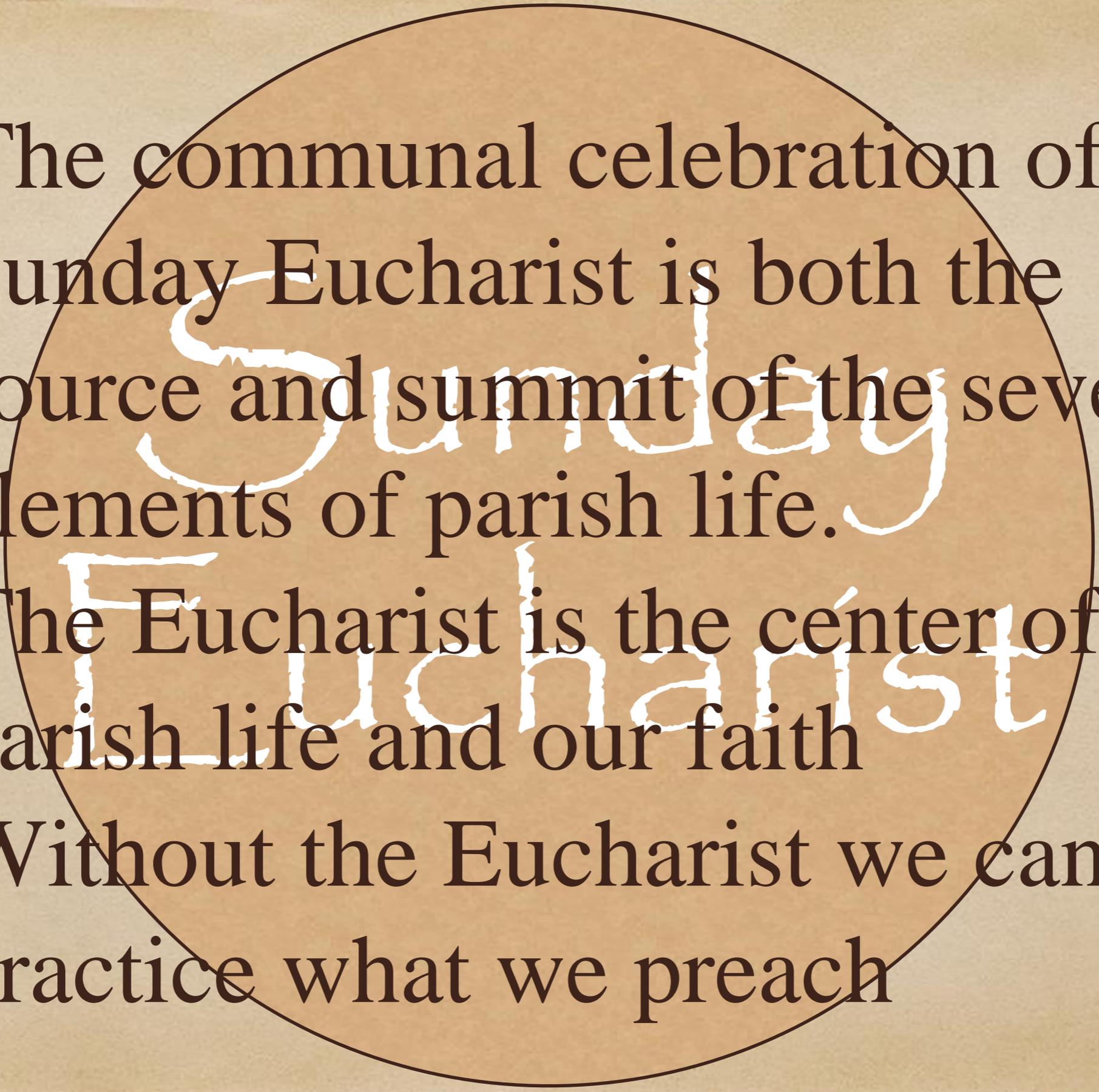
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- includes works of charity and justice.
 - our faith is profoundly social.
 - Call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.
 - Service of others.

Stewardship

- making the most responsible use of one's gifts and resources
- must recognize life as a gift
- response of humility and gratitude.
- entrusted with responsibility of caring for God's kingdom.
- Time, Talent & Treasure

Leadership

- shared leadership among clergy and laity which calls forth the gifts of visioning, planning, empowering and evaluating

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- The communal celebration of Sunday Eucharist is both the source and summit of the seven elements of parish life.
 - The Eucharist is the center of parish life and our faith
 - Without the Eucharist we cannot practice what we preach

From the earliest days of the Church,
from the first **COMMUNITY** of faith
gathered in **WORD** and **WORSHIP**,

we receive the mission of

EVANGELIZATION,
SERVICE, STEWARDSHIP

and the ministry of shared

LEADERSHIP in the breaking of

bread in remembrance of Jesus.