

# MARK PRICE

June 10, 2016

“Do you love Me?...”

Tend My sheep.”

John 21:16



## Lay Pastor Society *Serving the Lord by Serving the Church*

### LAY PASTOR SOCIETY

The Lay Pastor Society is a simple formatted plan to show and share the love of Christ with each and every member of your church family on a regular basis, and a way to evangelize in your parish. The Lay Pastor Society was conceived in 1980, and was established in 1991. The Bible verse that inspires the Society is “Do you love Me?... Tend My sheep.” (John 21:16)

### THE FOUNDATION OF THE LAY PASTOR SOCIETY

- The Teachings of Jesus Christ
- The Inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- The Challenge of Vatican II
- The Necessities of our Times

### OUR CHALLENGE

“I sense that the moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization” *Pope John Paul II*

It is the responsibility of Christ's Church to reach-out and meet the needs of its family. In today's world, with the expanding number of church members and the declining number of priests and deacons, it falls upon the lay people to

assist in meeting those needs. It is the responsibility of Christ's Church to reach-out and meet people's needs with love.

As a result of Vatican II lay people are not only given the right to take on more of the traditional responsibilities usually reserved for priests and deacons, but in addition, are empowered and challenged to do so.

In Scripture, Jesus tells the story of a shepherd who leaves his flock to find one lost sheep.

Over the past centuries, the lay members of the church have relied on the ordained members to complete this task. However, our church has become so large that our ordained members aren't able to keep up with the “sheep” who lose their way and the “sheep” who are tending to stray.

It is, therefore, our responsibility to assist our ordained. We must take the words of Christ to heart and look after and help our fellow Christians. In other words, we are to accept the call of Jesus, after all, he was talking to all of us.

Our challenge is to take on the mantle of disciple. To become a

lay person who feels the call to assist the Church's ordained in meeting the needs of its flock. Our challenge is to serve the church as a Lay Pastor.

### OUR GOAL

Our goal is to establish a community of lay people. Lay Christians who will work together to reach-out and tend to the many needs of our Church family;

- To assist and support the ordained in communicating and carrying out the teachings of Jesus Christ;
- To be an extension of the loving arms of “Mother Church.”
- To lovingly pursue and “return to the fold” any and all lost sheep;
- To offer comfort and direction to all who wish a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Then to assist in their spiritual and Christian growth and development;
- To be an example of a true disciple and follower of Jesus Christ as exemplified in Holy Scripture;
- To contact all who call themselves members of the church and offer leadership,

help, understanding, compassion, love, support and guidance;

- To encourage in everyone a closer walk with the Lord;
- To provide one Lay Pastor for every 20 families in a parish;
- To form support groups within each parish comprising a maximum of ten Lay Pastors.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

- Our mission is to serve the Lord and to serve our Church as a fellowship of Lay Catholic Christians dedicated to personalizing the love and concern the Catholic Church feels for its members.
- We will strive to strengthen and unite the individuals and families of our parish to love, worship and trust in the Lord.
- It will be our goal to communicate, on a regular basis, to our brothers and sisters in Christ, that they are remembered and loved by their Church.
- We will humbly and discreetly address the concerns of our parish members and will do all we can to assist and support our ordained and religious in their leadership of our Church.