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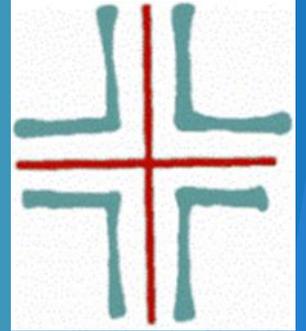
Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Vision for Building Community and Commitment

Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey, Ph.D., CPO

A Litany of Rejoicing

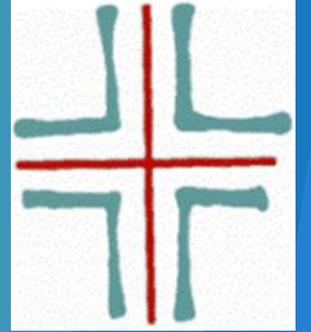
Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

- ▶ Leader: For rebirth and resilience,
People: Blessed be God;
Leader: For the spirituality of the humble,
People: Glory to God, hallelujah;
Leader: For all who are hungry and thirsty for justice,
People: Praise him and magnify him forever;
- ▶ Leader: For all who are banned for speaking the truth,
People: Blessed be God;
▶ Leader: For all who triumph over their bitter circumstance,
People: Glory to God, hallelujah!
▶ Leader: For all who risk reputation, livelihood and life itself for Christ's sake and the gospel;
People: All praise and all glory; this is God's kingdom; praise him and love him forever. Amen.



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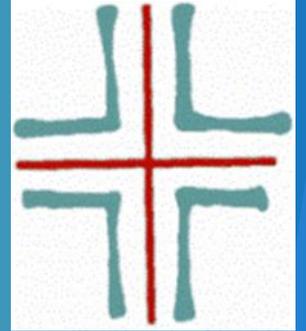
Vision and Mission of NALM



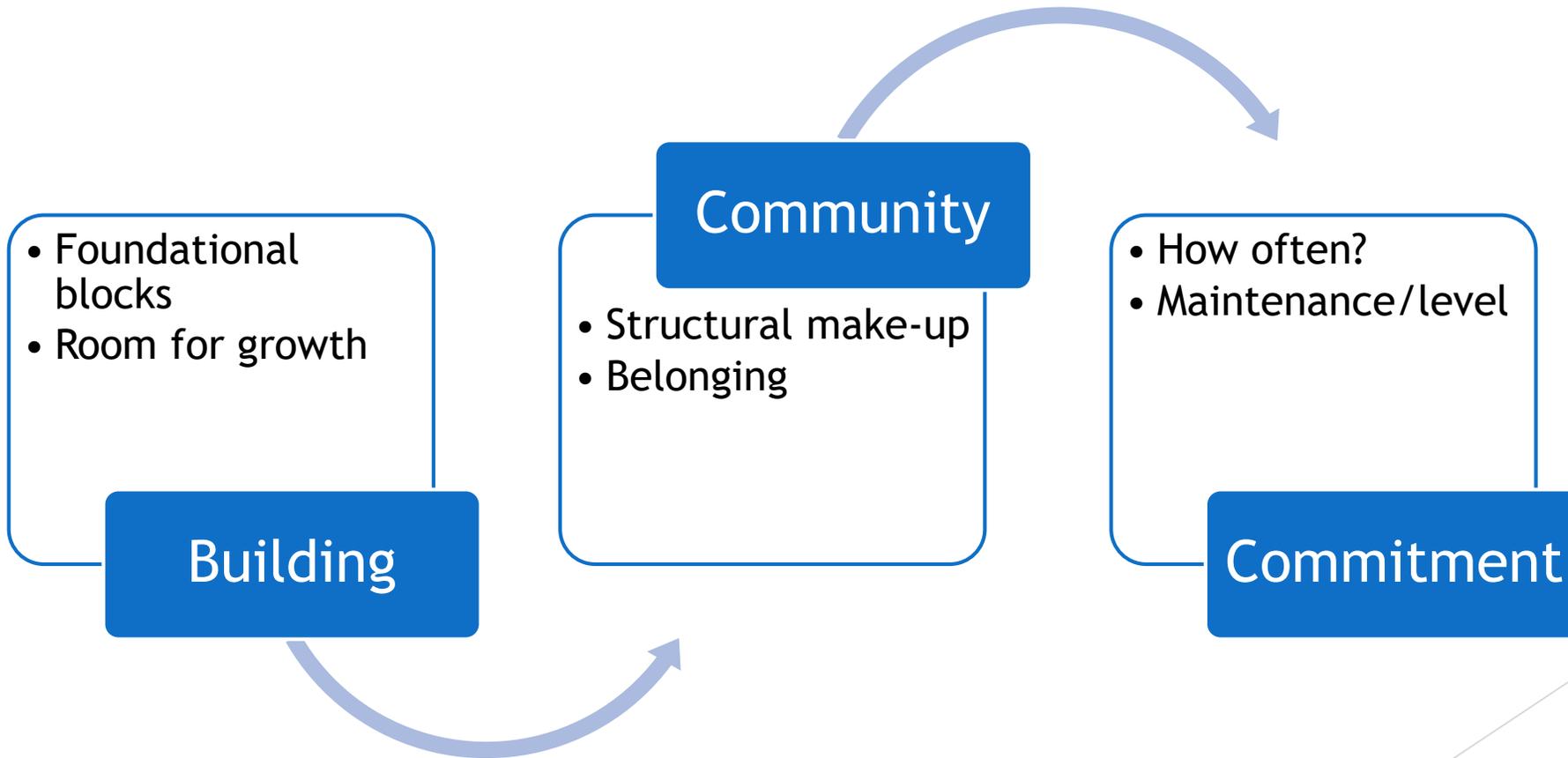
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- ▶ **Vision**
- ▶ The National Association for Lay Ministry promotes the co-responsibility of ordained and lay ministers to embody the saving mission of Christ for the World.
- ▶ **Mission**
- ▶ The National Association for Lay Ministry is a collaborative organization of lay, religious and ordained ministers that empowers, advocates for, and develops lay pastoral leadership and promotes the growth of lay pastoral ministry in the Catholic Church.

Vision (My Nana)



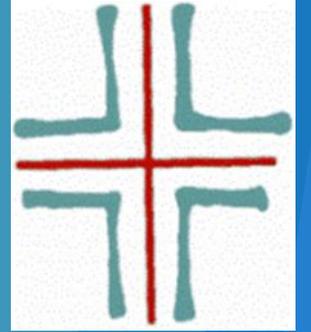
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Vision

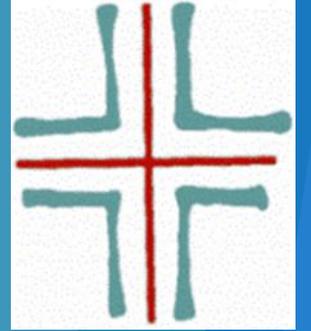
► Words such as:

- Envision
- Visionary
- Visible
- Visual
- Focus
- Goal
- Strategy



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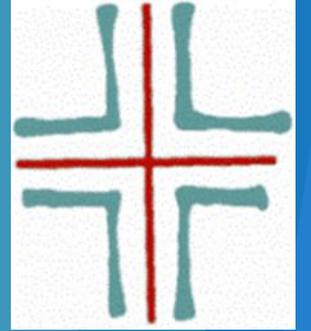
Practical Applications: Quotes from *Co-Workers*



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- ▶ Important - **resource** for guiding development of lay ecclesial ministry in the United States.
- ▶ By virtue of their call, lay ecclesial ministers take on a new relationship to the mission of the Church and to the other ministers who work to accomplish it. (p25)
- ▶ Effective formation methods address the whole person: emotions, imagination, will, heart, and mind. It is the whole person who ministers, so the whole person is the proper subject of formation. (p.33)
- ▶ *Human, intellectual, spiritual, pastoral -*

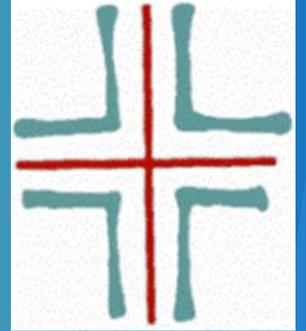
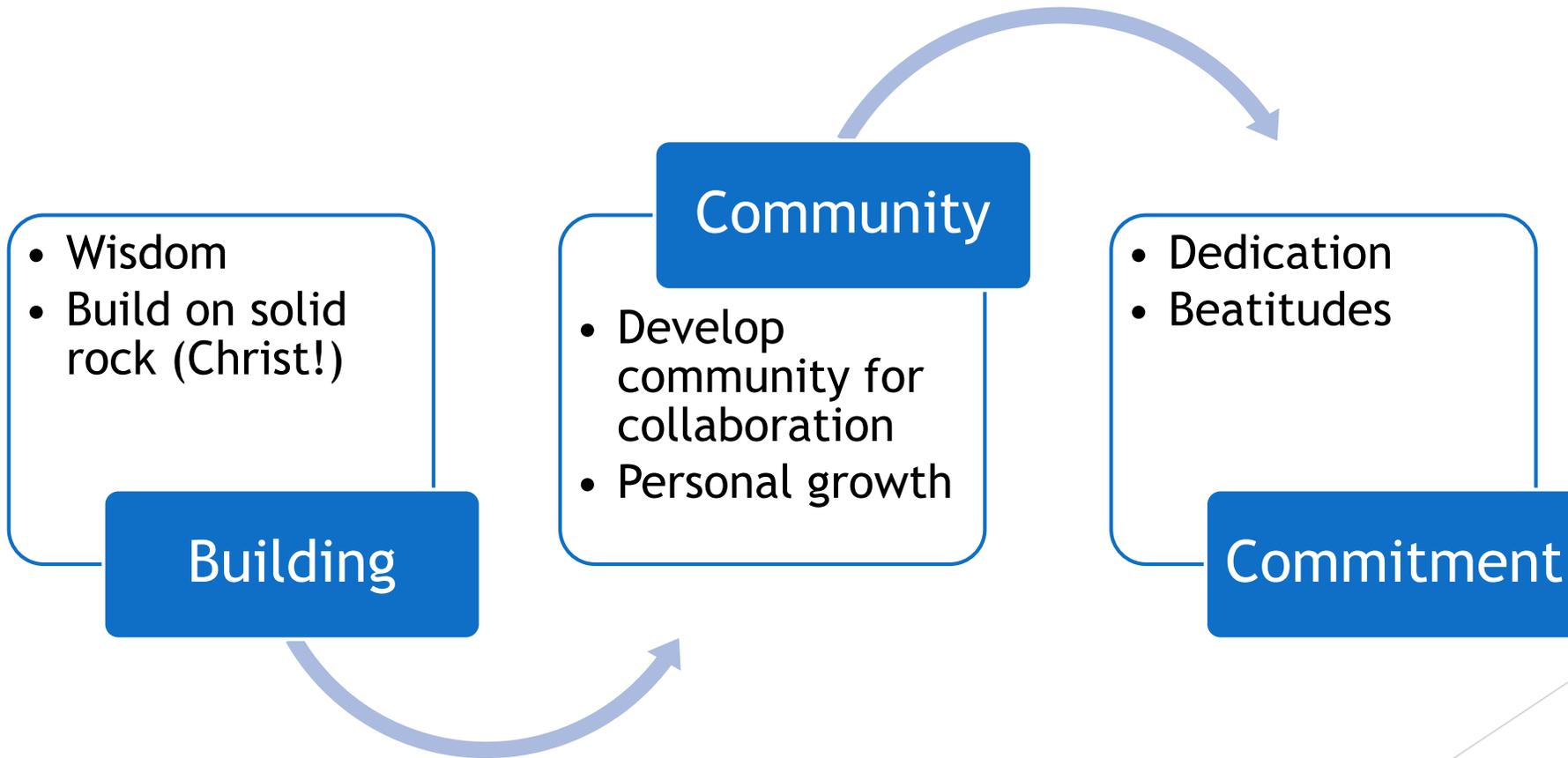
From the *Directory for Catechesis*



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- ▶ *Since catechists must be formed for evangelization in the present world, it will be necessary to use wisdom in harmonizing the attention due to persons and to the truths of faith, personal growth and the community dimension, care for spiritual dynamics and dedication to the effort for the common good. par. 135*

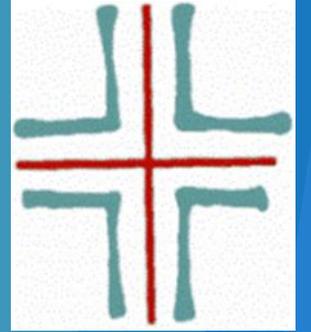
Vision



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Lyrics for The Church's One Foundation

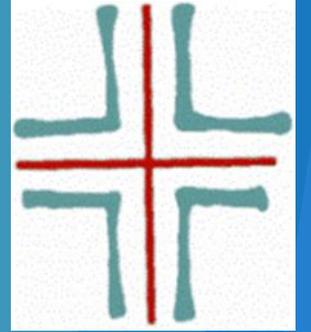
https://hymnary.org/text/the_churchs_one_foundation



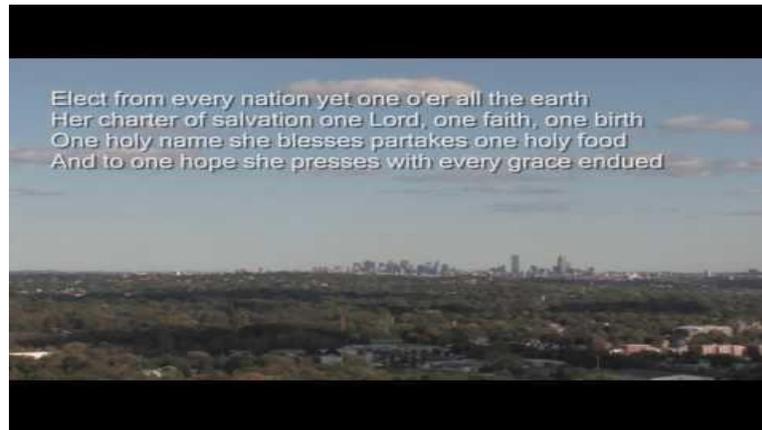
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- ▶ 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word:
from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- ▶ 2 Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

The Church's One Foundation

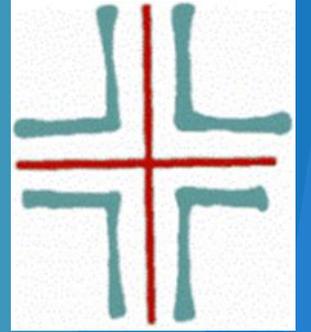


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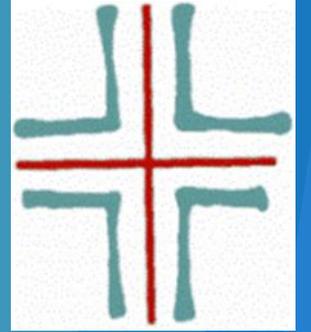
Foundations

- ▶ Ps. 127: 1 Unless the Lord builds the house ...
- ▶ Mt. 7: 24-27 - Story of the vineyard owner; Build your house on a rock, on a solid foundation
- ▶ Mt. 5: 3-12 Beatitudes. Attitudes for a way of life as LEMs



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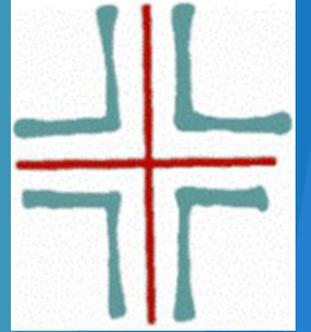
Christifideles laici



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- ▶ *The newness of the Christian life is the **foundation** and title for equality among all the **baptized in Christ**, for **all the members** of the People of God: "As members, they share a **common dignity** from their rebirth in Christ, they have the same filial grace and the same vocation to perfection. They possess in common **one salvation, one hope and one undivided charity**"[28]. Because of the **one dignity flowing from Baptism**, each member of the lay faithful, together with ordained ministers and men and women religious, shares a responsibility for the Church's mission. par.15*

Beyond 15; now what?

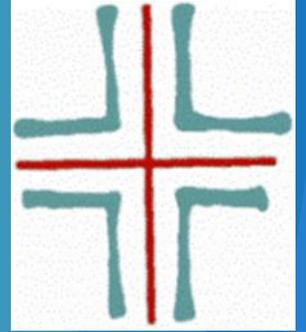
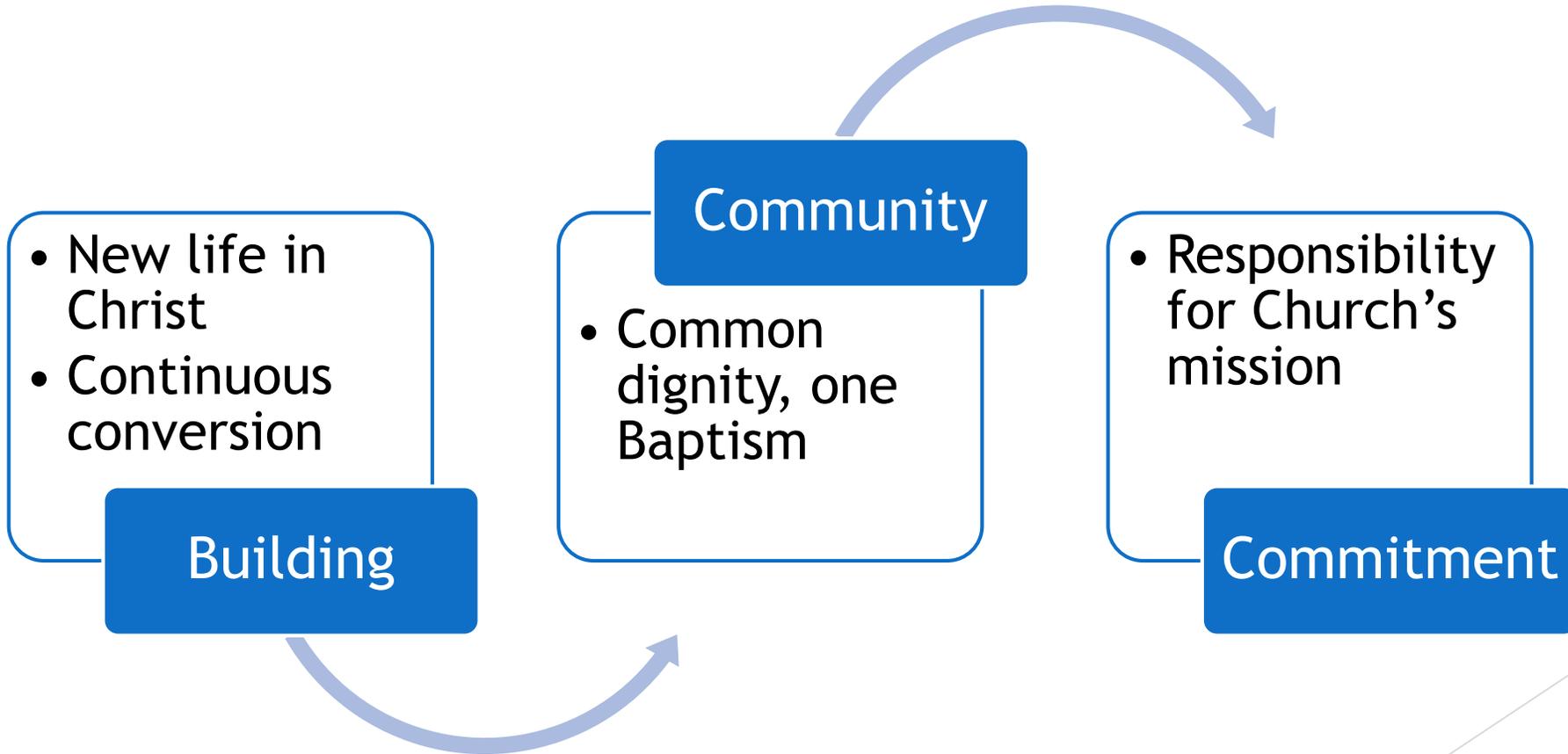


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- ▶ What kind of vision does NALM have in relation to *Co-Workers* for the next fifteen, twenty, twenty-five years?
- ▶ What kind of community is NALM made of now (beyond 40 yrs), and hopes to develop in the future, in relation to *Co-Workers*?
- ▶ What kind of commitment does NALM espouse in relation to *Co-Workers*?

- ▶ Commitment - What is our commitment to NALM? Depth, duration?
- ▶ Community - What binds us as community? What is our foundation?
- ▶ Vision: Past 15yrs, moving forward... What is our vision forward as lay ecclesial ministers? (*Use Chat for responses*)

Vision

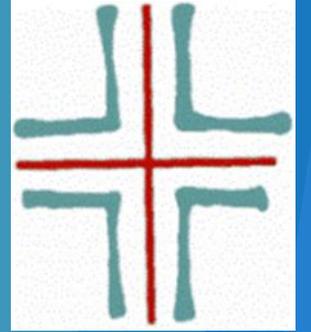


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Community

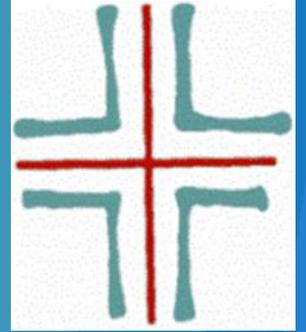
Words such as:

- Togetherness
- Variety
- Fellowship
- Commonality



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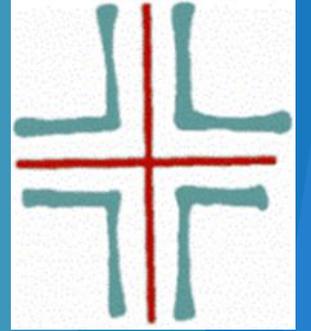
Community - What community have we developed around us?



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- ▶ *Perhaps “those of us who have a reasonably comfortable life don’t know how to weep. Some realities in life are only seen with eyes cleansed by tears. I would like each of you to ask yourself this question: Can I weep? ...Or is my weeping only the self-centred whining of those who cry because they want something else?”[31] ...Weeping is also an expression of mercy and compassion. If tears do not come, ask the Lord to give you the grace to weep for the sufferings of others. Once you can weep, then you will be able to help others from the heart. Christus vivit par. 76*

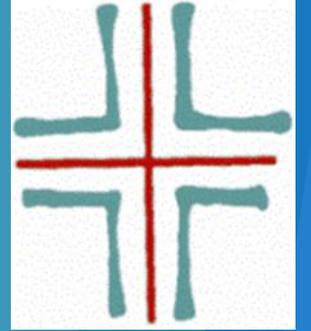
Break room



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- ▶ What kind of community do I envision for NALM moving forward?
- ▶ In what ways can I help to create such a cohesive community?

Community (Ubuntu/Umuntu) Collaboration



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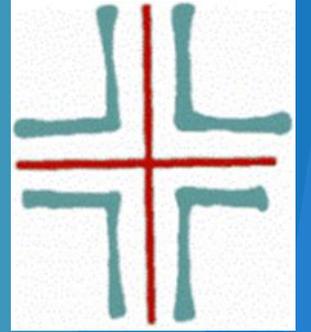
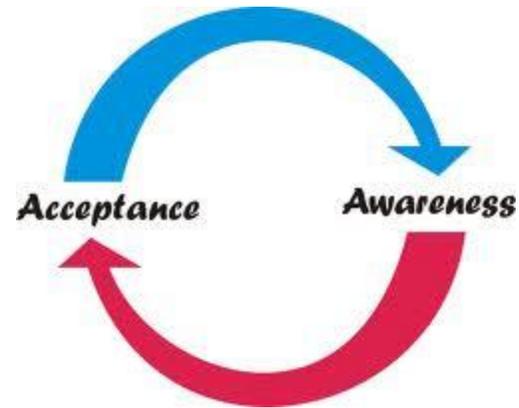
- ▶ *Love also impels us towards universal communion. No one can mature or find fulfilment by withdrawing from others. By its very nature, love calls for growth in openness and the ability to accept others as part of a continuing adventure that makes every periphery converge in a greater sense of mutual belonging. As Jesus told us: “You are all brothers” (Mt 23:8). Fratelli tutti, par. 95*

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Commitment

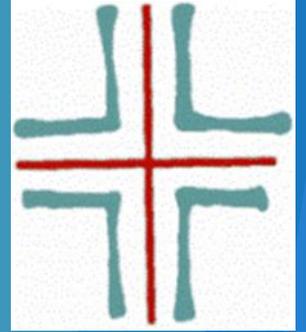
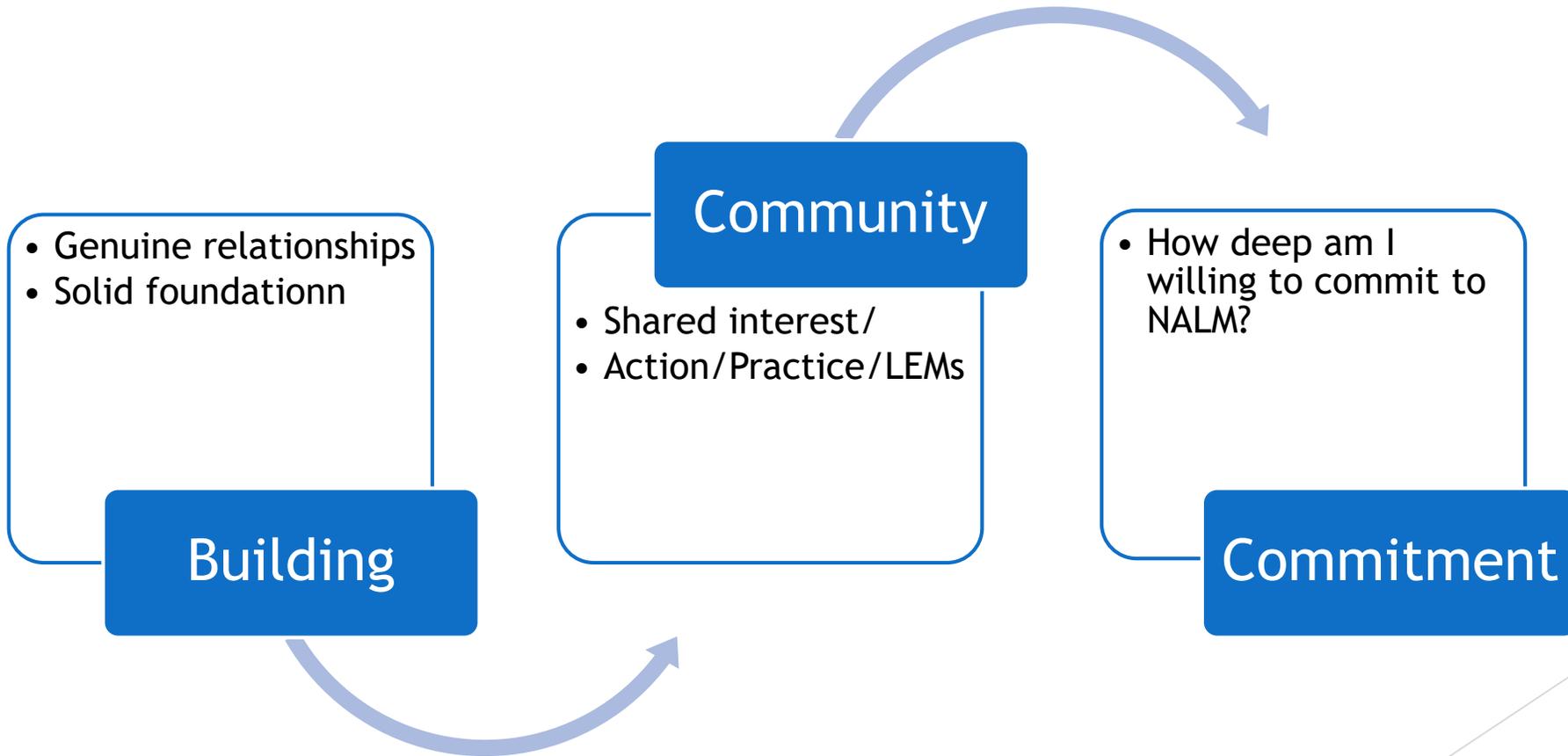
► Words such as:

- Pledge
- Dedicate oneself to a cause
- Dedicate oneself to a person



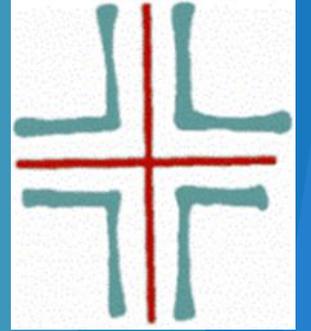
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Vision



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Commitment: Relationships



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► Commitment:

Relationships

Collaboration

Community

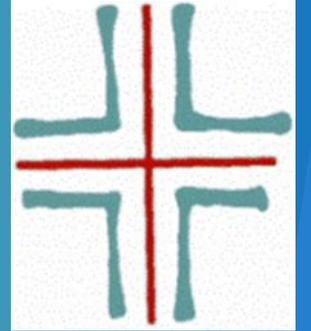
Christ at the head, all
hands on deck

Focus on the Vision!



You have skills and Talents!

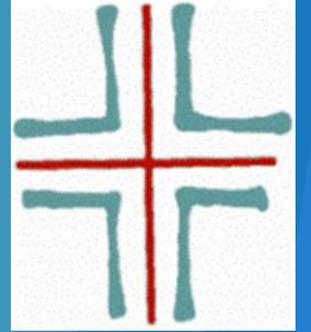
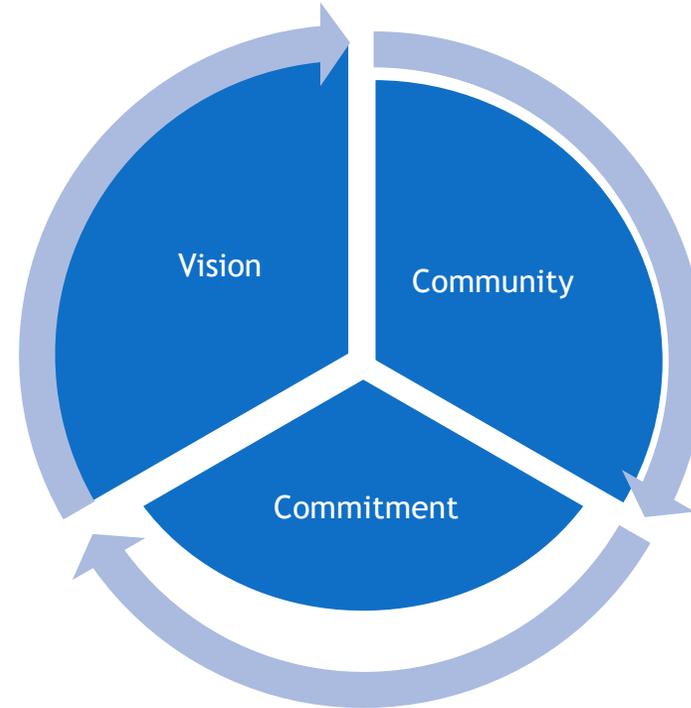
- ▶ Share one skill or talent that you would like to commit to NALM as we advance the gospel message.
- ▶ Use Chat function.



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Wisdom is found in all generations.

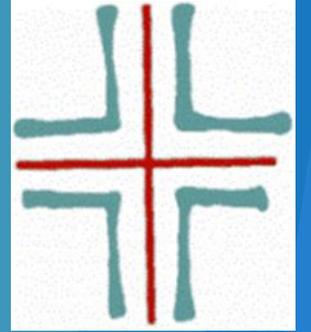
- ▶ The Sankofa bird.
- ▶ It is not too late to look back and take that which was good from the past, in order to move forward.



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Let us pray: A Prayer to the Creator

(Fratelli tutti)



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Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen.