



**Office of the Bishop**  
*Diocese of Camden*

February 19, 2026

Dear Pastors,

I am deeply grateful for the openness you have shown to our emerging evangelization initiative. Your response to the virtual Clergy Study Day with Jeff Cavins and the response of your parish staffs to the upcoming Staff Formation Day with Sherry Weddell have been incredible. Even amid real challenges, our shared path toward a culture of missionary formation promises growth in our parishes not only in numbers and activity, but also in the Church's essential harvest: intentional disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our pastoral courage is needed now more than ever as the upcoming **School of Discipleship** represents an important first step toward this missionary renewal. To assist you in planning well, several important resources have now been prepared. To ensure clarity and ease of access, dedicated webpages have been created in both English and Spanish. I strongly encourage you to bookmark these sites, as they will serve as the central repositories for all information related to the School of Discipleship:

English: <https://www.camdendiocese.org/sod/>

Spanish: <https://www.camdendiocese.org/edd/>

**Whom should you invite?**

With the help from the members of CESF, I will offer a formation to you and all priests on this subject ("Becoming Fishers of Men and Women through Intentional Invitation") at **5:00 pm on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Agnes Church (Our Lady of Hope) in Blackwood** prior to our dinner together and our formation with Sherry Weddell that same evening. So that you can get a headstart on your discernment, I can offer the following guidance now on whom to invite to the School of Discipleship based on conversations I have had with many of you, as well as with the Evangelization Core Team:

**A. FORMATORS – ESSENTIAL INVITEES**

Formators are those who already guide others along their faith journey within your parish community. You should warmly invite parochial vicars, deacons, parish catechetical leaders, all catechists, OCIA leaders, youth and young adult leaders and ethnic ministry coordinators. If an order of consecrated religious serves your parish, I encourage you to consider inviting several members of the community. Also, please consider inviting your staff who engaged in the Forming Intentional Disciples book club.

**\*\*For bilingual parishes, the Office of Hispanic Ministry will be in contact with your parochial vicar and/or Latino coordinator to obtain the list of leaders who will participate in the Spanish-speaking sessions.**

**B. FAITHFUL SERVANTS – AT YOUR DISCRETION**

These include key leaders who assist you in ministry and who are faithfully serving the parish in different areas: sacristans, altar server coordinators, ushers and members of parish or finance councils.

**When?**

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, and May 5

6:45–9:00 PM

**\*Participants should be prepared to attend all four evenings.**

**Where?**

Eleven sites have been designated throughout the diocese, including two for Latinos and one for young adults. Sites were chosen so that participants will not need to travel more than twenty minutes.

Registration will open in the coming weeks, and additional details regarding locations will be communicated shortly.

I pray your Lent is off to a prayerful and penitent start. As we continue to “prepare ourselves by a purification of spirit” (Pope St. Leo the Great), I entrust this initiative and your pastoral leadership to the care of the Lord, confident that He who has begun this good work in us will bring it to completion.

With gratitude for your ministry and assurance of my prayers, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

*+ Joseph A. Williams*

Most Reverend Joseph Williams  
Bishop of Camden