

# Discipleship

*A Vision of the  
Discipleship Process*

For an elaboration, see <https://www.a-z.ctn.sg/post/discipleship-part1-d1>

## Opening Prayer

Lord, You are the fullness of life, of holiness and of joy. We are like trees by flowing streams, for You, Lord, have placed us by the source of life, the Cross of Your Son.

Fill our days and nights with the love of your wisdom, that we may bear fruit for ever and be counted in the assembly of Your saints.

- Adapted from one of the Psalm-Prayers in the Office of Readings  
(5th Sunday of Lent).

## A Vision of Growth

Vision for children's education v discipleship.

Without vision, we are satisfied with status quo. There is no impetus to grow, and little or no risks are taken. We amble along, without a compass.

With vision, we can regularly adjust our course, we venture much more, we can regroup from time to time, and we push forward with renewed enthusiasm – in a specific and purposeful direction.

## The Church's Essential Mission – Disciple-Making / Evangelization

The Church “**exists in order to evangelize**”, and the “task of evangelizing all people constitutes the **essential mission** of the Church.” (Pope St. Paul VI, [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#), 14).

“Evangelization takes place in obedience to the missionary mandate of Jesus: ‘Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations...’ [Matt 28:19-20]” ([Evangelii Gaudium](#), 19).

Making disciples is inseparably connected with evangelization – it is the very reason why the Church exists.





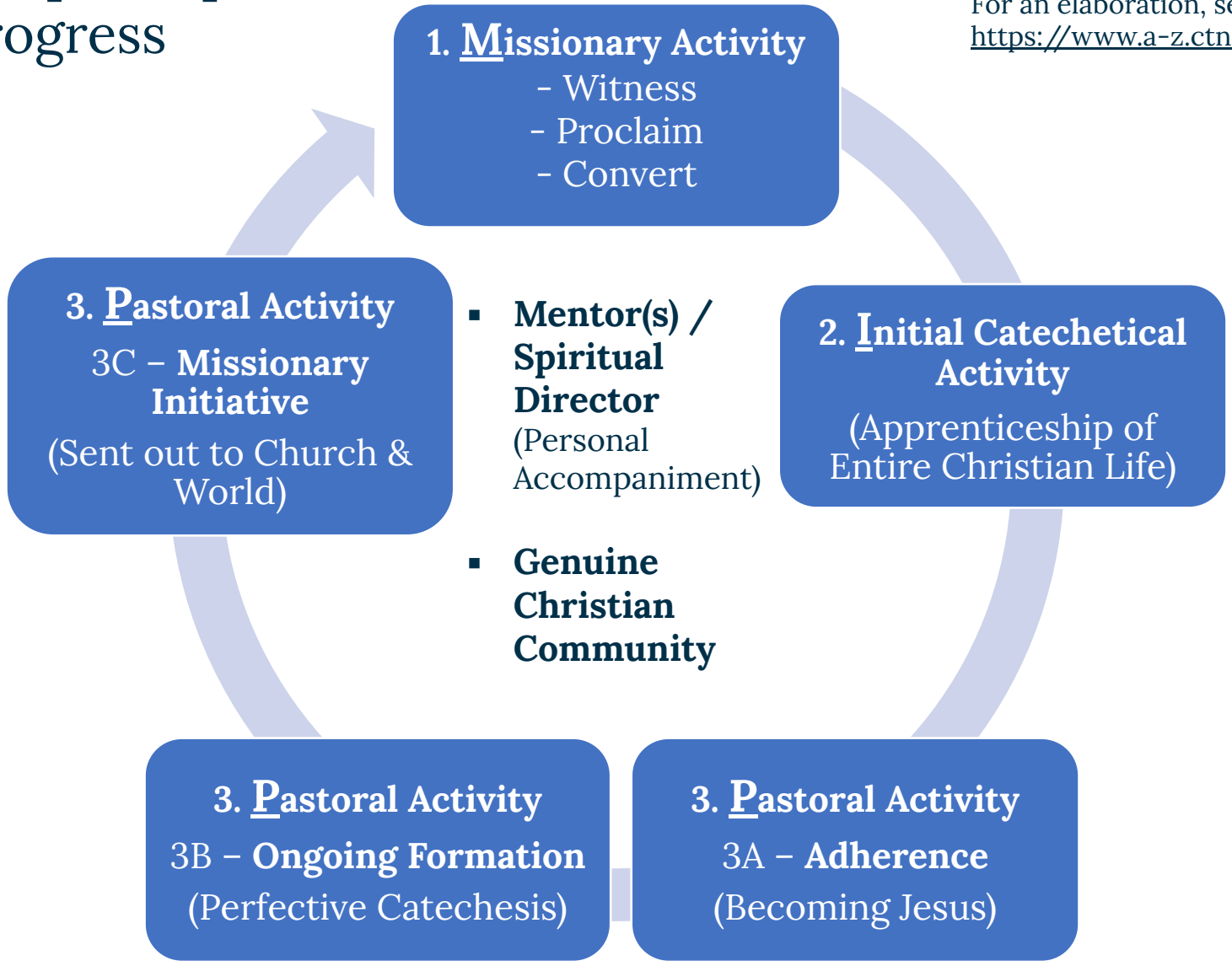
Christ  
entrusting his  
disciples with  
the missionary  
mandate -  
Appearance on  
the Mountain in  
Galilee, by  
Duccio di  
Buoninsegna  
(1255-1319)



# Vision of Discipleship Process

## Mission In Progress

For an elaboration, see  
<https://www.a-z.ctn.sg/post/discipleship-part1-d1>





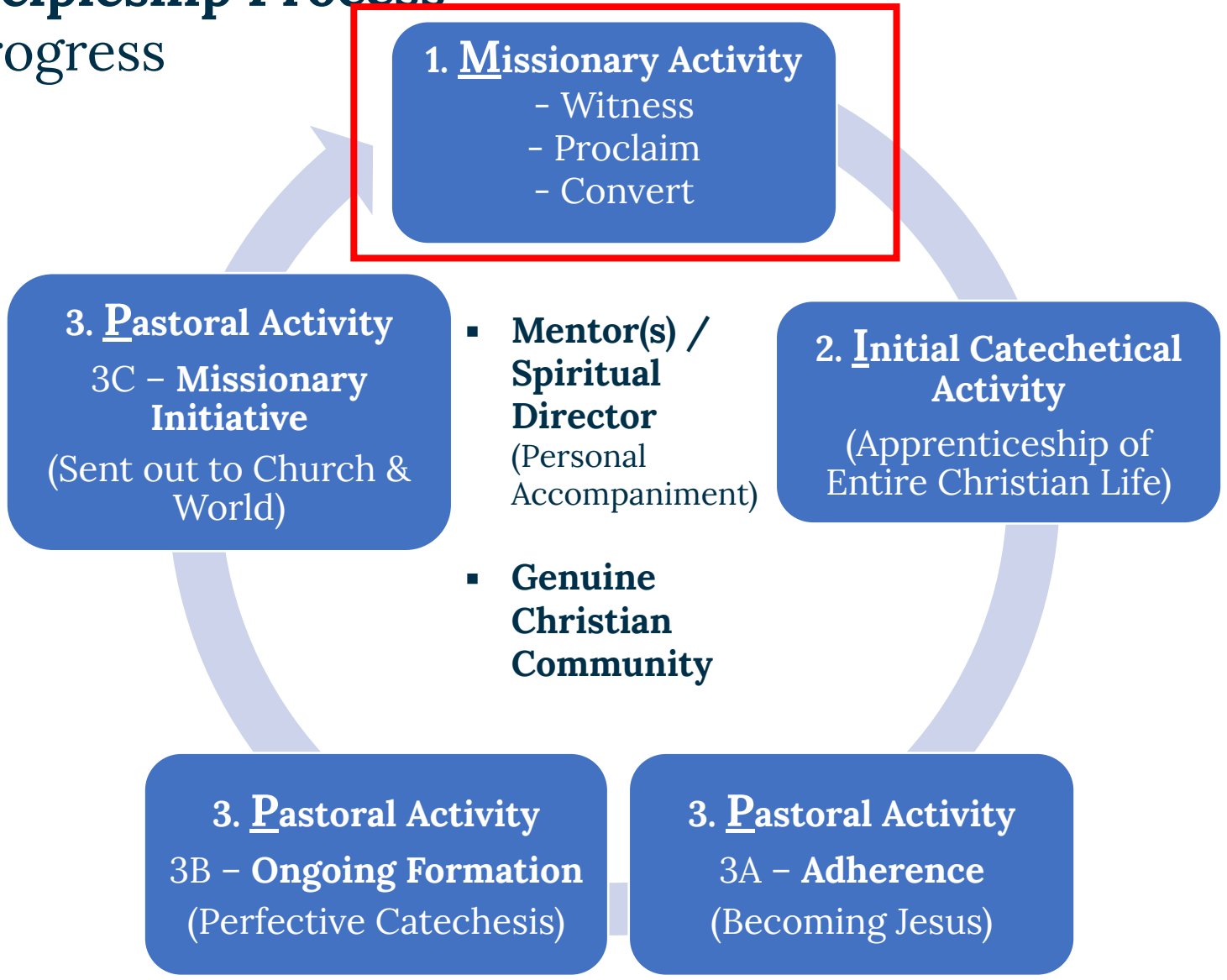
# 1. Missionary Activity

Directed toward non-believers and those who live in religious indifference

- **To unbaptized** (mission *ad gentes*)
- **To baptized** (New Evangelization)

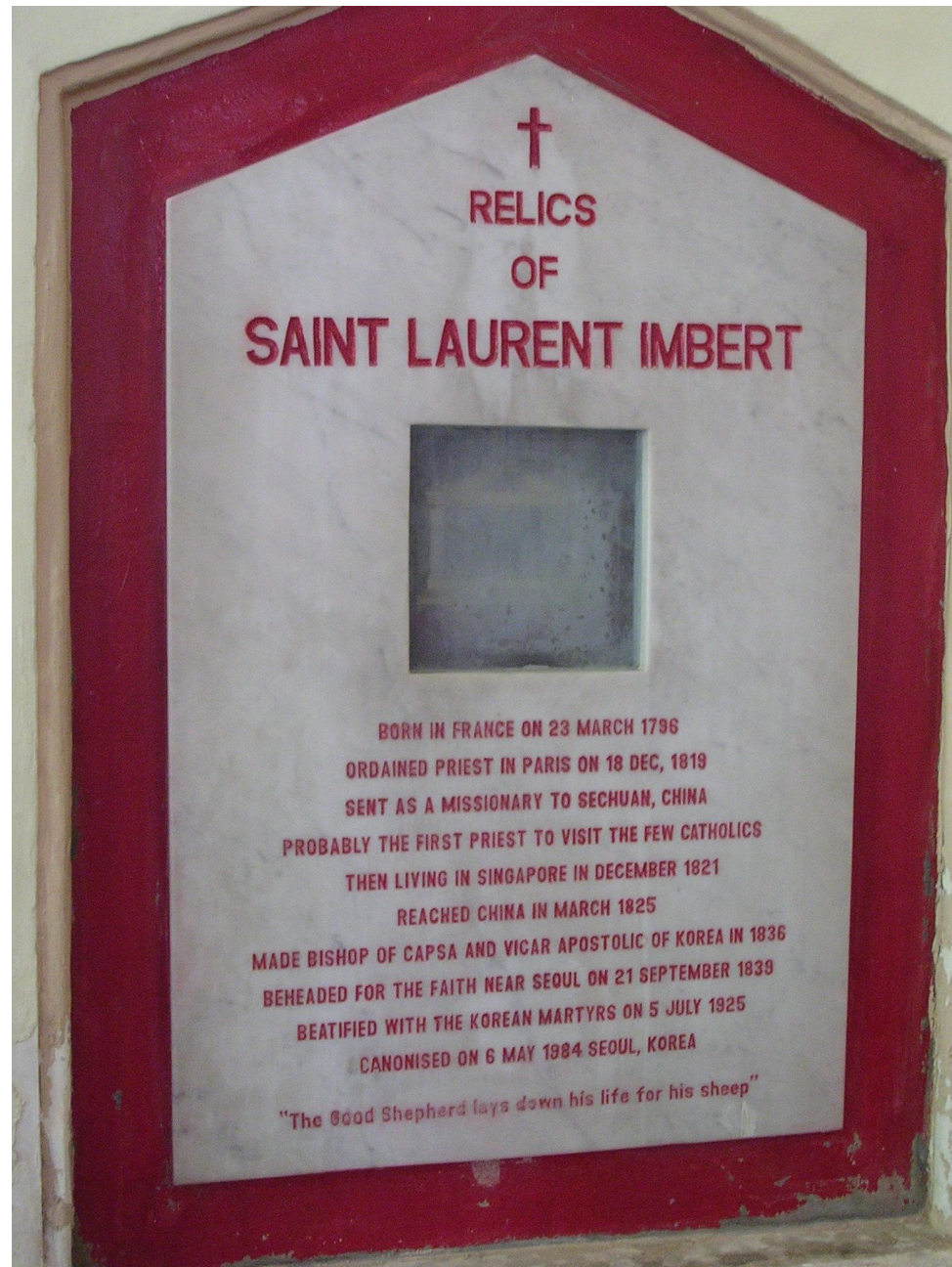
# Vision of Discipleship Process

## Mission In Progress





# 1. Missionary Activity



Plaque marking the relics of Saint Laurent-Joseph-Marius Imbert, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Singapore

# 1. Missionary Activity

## MEP Priests (200 years ago)

- *Witnessed* (word and deed)
- *Proclaimed* (explicit, Gospel)
- *Converted* (initial conversion – “Awakening”)

Birth of Singapore Church.

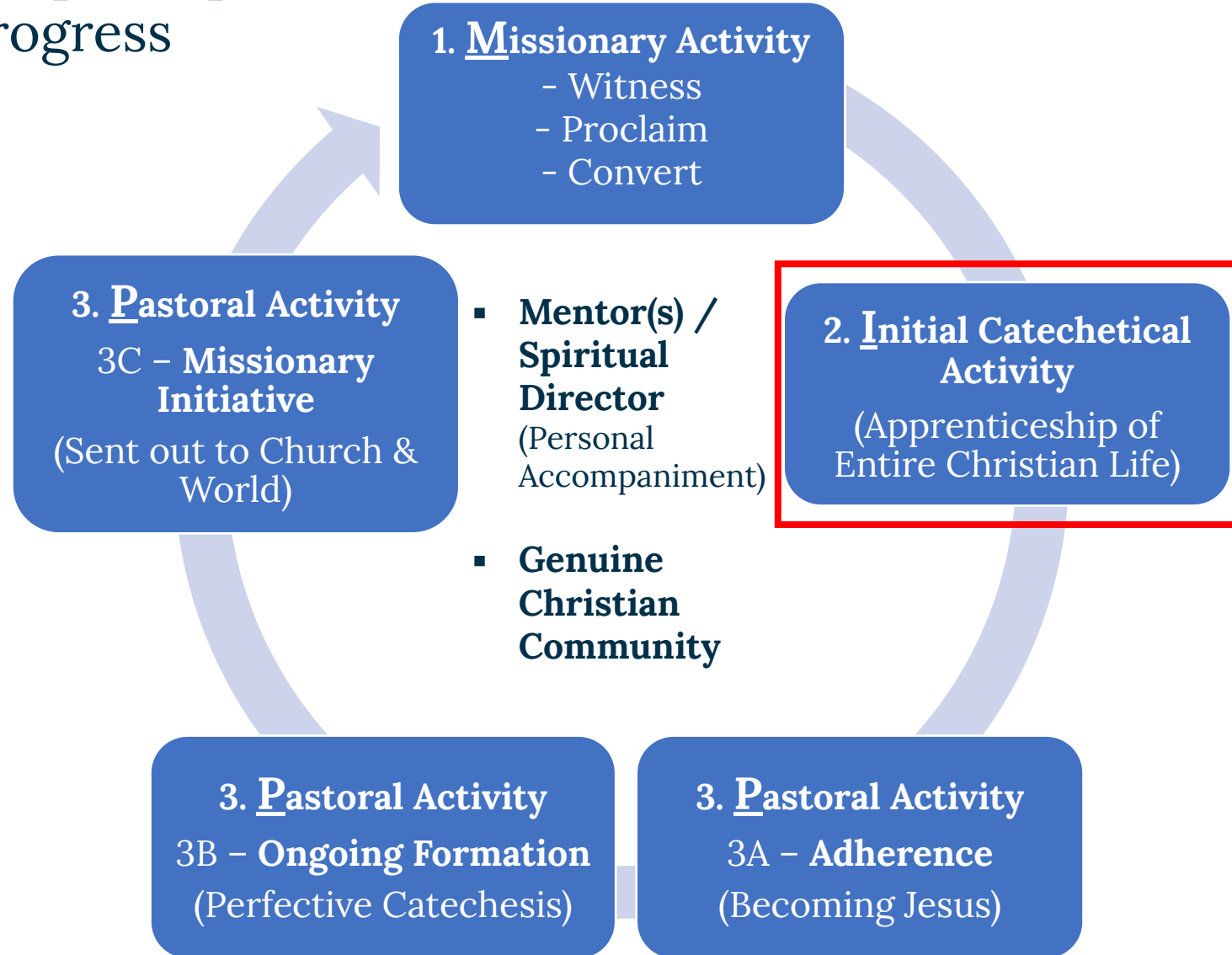
What comes next?

## 2. Initial Catechetical Activity

For those who choose the Gospel &  
for those who need to complete or modify their initiation

# Vision of Discipleship Process

## Mission In Progress



## 2. Initial Catechetical Activity (a.k.a. Initial Catechesis)

- Comprehensive and systematic.
- *An apprenticeship of the entire Christian life.*
- Promotes an authentic following of Christ.
- Helps the disciple to transform the old man in order to assume his baptismal responsibilities and to profess the faith from the heart.
- Centred on what constitutes the nucleus of Christian experience, the most fundamental certainties of the faith, and the most essential evangelical values.

Fundamental characteristics of initial catechesis ([GDC](#), 67)



## 2. Initial Catechetical Activity (a.k.a. Initial Catechesis)



Saint Paul with Saints Aquila and Priscilla, unknown author.

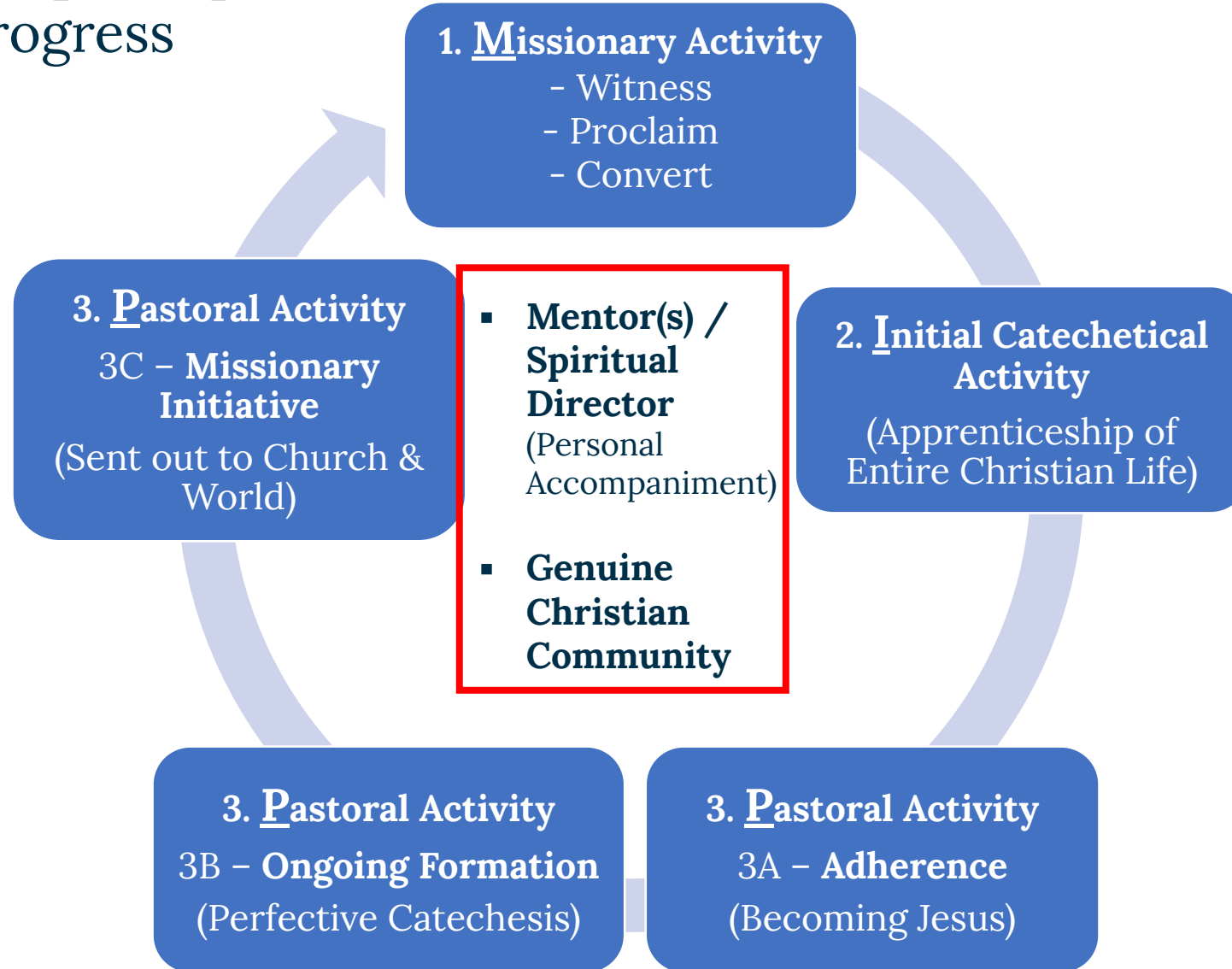
Apollos, as a new believer, required the guidance and teaching of older and more mature Christians (Priscilla and Aquila), to understand “*the way of God more accurately*” (**Acts 18:24-26**).

## 2. Initial Catechetical Activity (a.k.a. Initial Catechesis)

- Possible Topics (Bible, Creed, Eucharist / Mass, History of Salvation, Prayer, Sacraments and Worship).
- Examples:
  - Childhood Catechism.
  - RCIY.
  - RCIA.
- Any lessons to be *re-learned* or *applied*?

# Vision of Discipleship Process

## Mission In Progress



# Applies to all Stages

- **Mentor(s) / Spiritual Director** (Journeying with Others)
  - **Genuine Christian Community** (Koinonia)

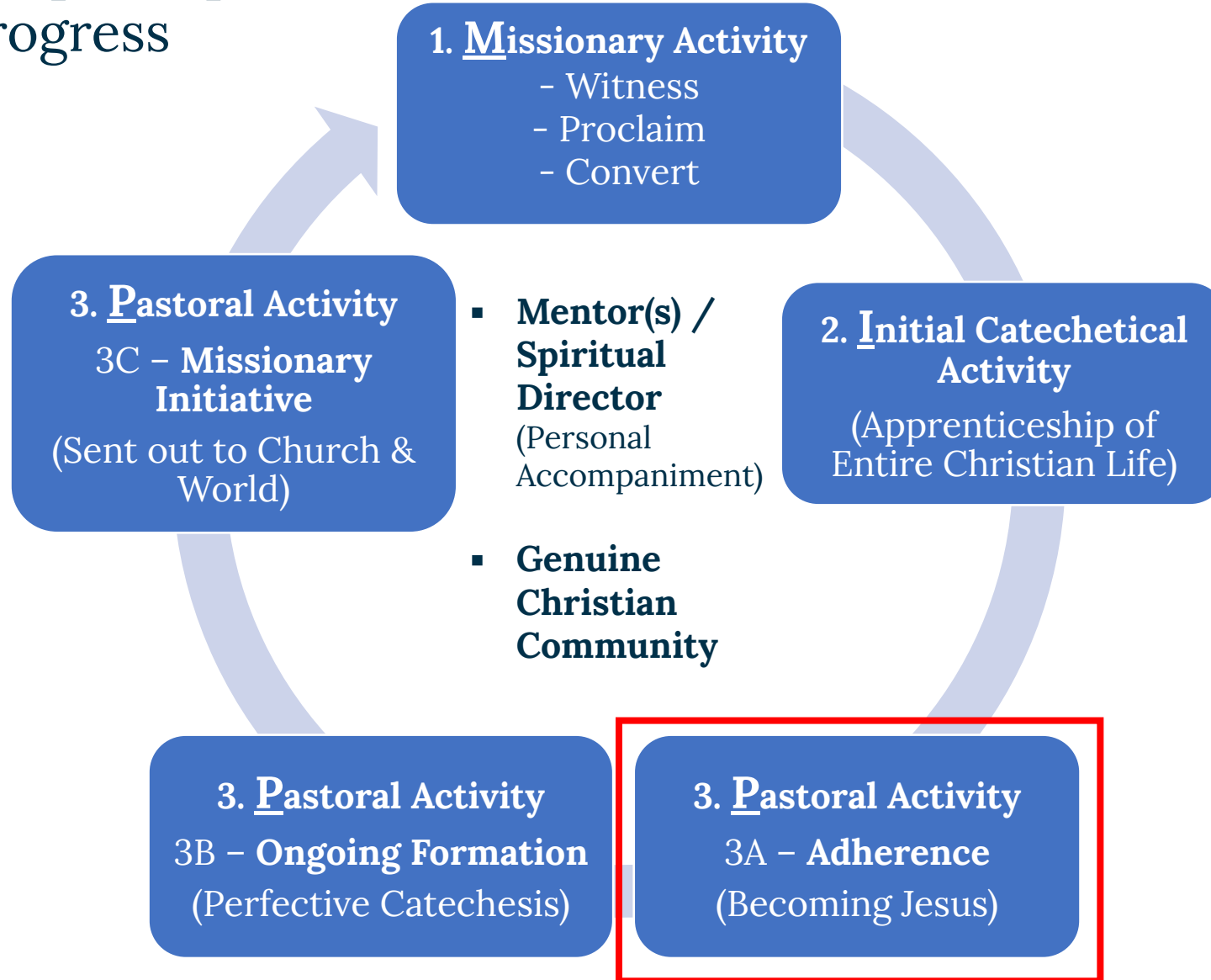
# 3. Pastoral Activity

Directed toward the Christian faithful of mature faith  
in the bosom of the Christian community



# Vision of Discipleship Process

## Mission In Progress



### 3. Pastoral Activity

#### 3A. Adherence

Adhering to Jesus Christ is the disciple's process of life-long and continuing conversion or journey towards perfection like and maturity in the fullness of Christ.

See [GDC](#), 56; **Eph 4:13-16**

*I.e. Becoming Jesus.*

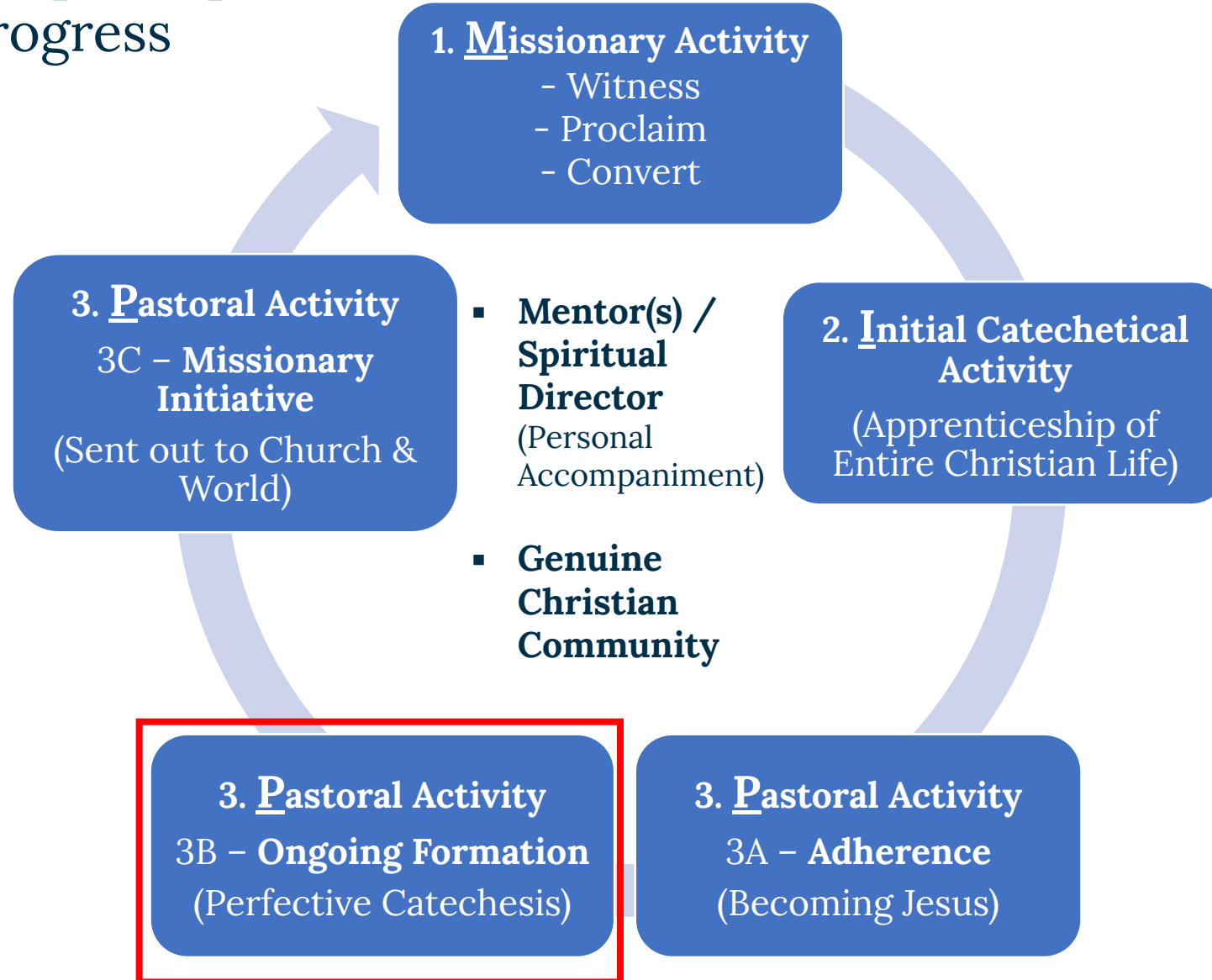
## 3. Pastoral Activity

### 3A. Adherence

- Possible Topics
  - Repeat, Extend and Deepen Earlier Topics
  - Finances
  - Imitating the Saints
  - Queen of Heaven, Mary
  - Theology of the Body
  - Virtues and Vices
  - Zion (4 Last Things)
- Are *you* adhering to Christ?

# Vision of Discipleship Process

## Mission In Progress



### 3. Pastoral Activity

#### 3B. Ongoing Formation (Perfective Catechesis)

- “Ongoing Formation”, “Perfective Catechesis”, “Permanent Catechesis” (see generally GDC, 51, 69-72)

A “systematic deepening of the Christian message by means of theological instruction, so as truly to educate in the faith, encourage growth in understanding of it and to equip the Christian for giving the reason for his hope in the present world” (GDC, 71).



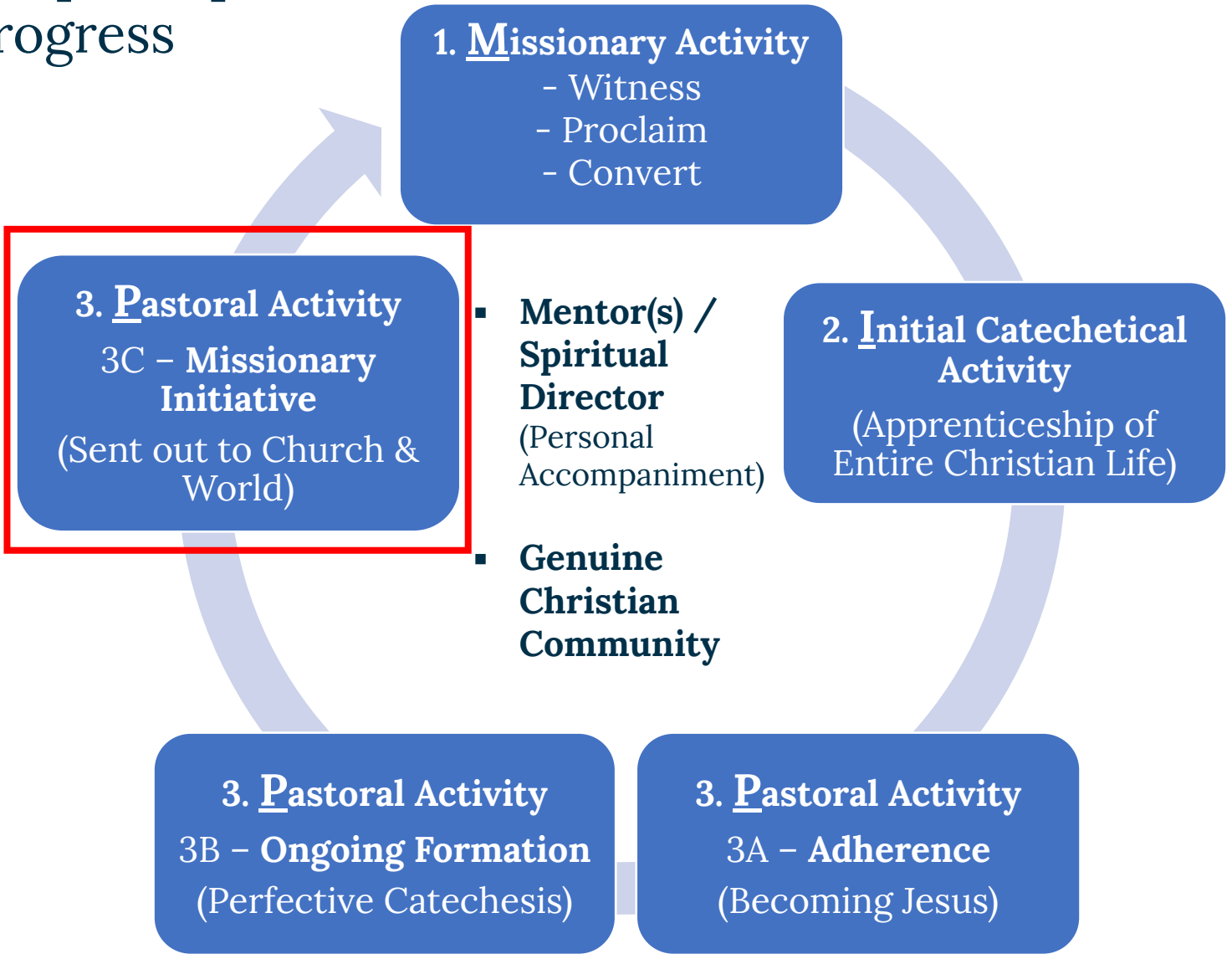
### 3. Pastoral Activity

#### 3B. Ongoing Formation (Perfective Catechesis)

- Possible Topics
  - Repeat, Extend and Deepen Earlier Topics
  - Discipleship
  - Moral Theology
  - New Evangelization
  - Opus Dei (Work / various aspects of Catholic Social Teaching)
  - Reason and Faith
  - Yesterday (History of Church)
  
- A-Z of DiscipleSHIP as part of “perfective catechesis”.
  
- **Are you regularly and diligently receiving perfective catechesis**, as part of a life-long process and culture of learning?

# Vision of Discipleship Process

## Mission In Progress



## 3. Pastoral Activity

### 3C. Missionary Initiative

- Disciples sent out to the *Church* and to the *World*, to evangelize and to make disciples.
- Participants of / Contributors to Church's **M**issionary Activity, **I**nitial Catechetical Activity, and **P**astoral Activity.
- **Mission In Progress (MIP).**
- *Maturing Disciples, Nurturing Disciples.*

## 3. Pastoral Activity

### 3C. Missionary Initiative

- Possible Topics
  - Gifts and Talents
  - Leadership
  - Universal Call to Holiness (Vocation)
  - Will of God (Discernment)
  - “X” for Carrying our Crosses (on Suffering).
- Are *you* on mission for Christ in the Church and/or in the World?

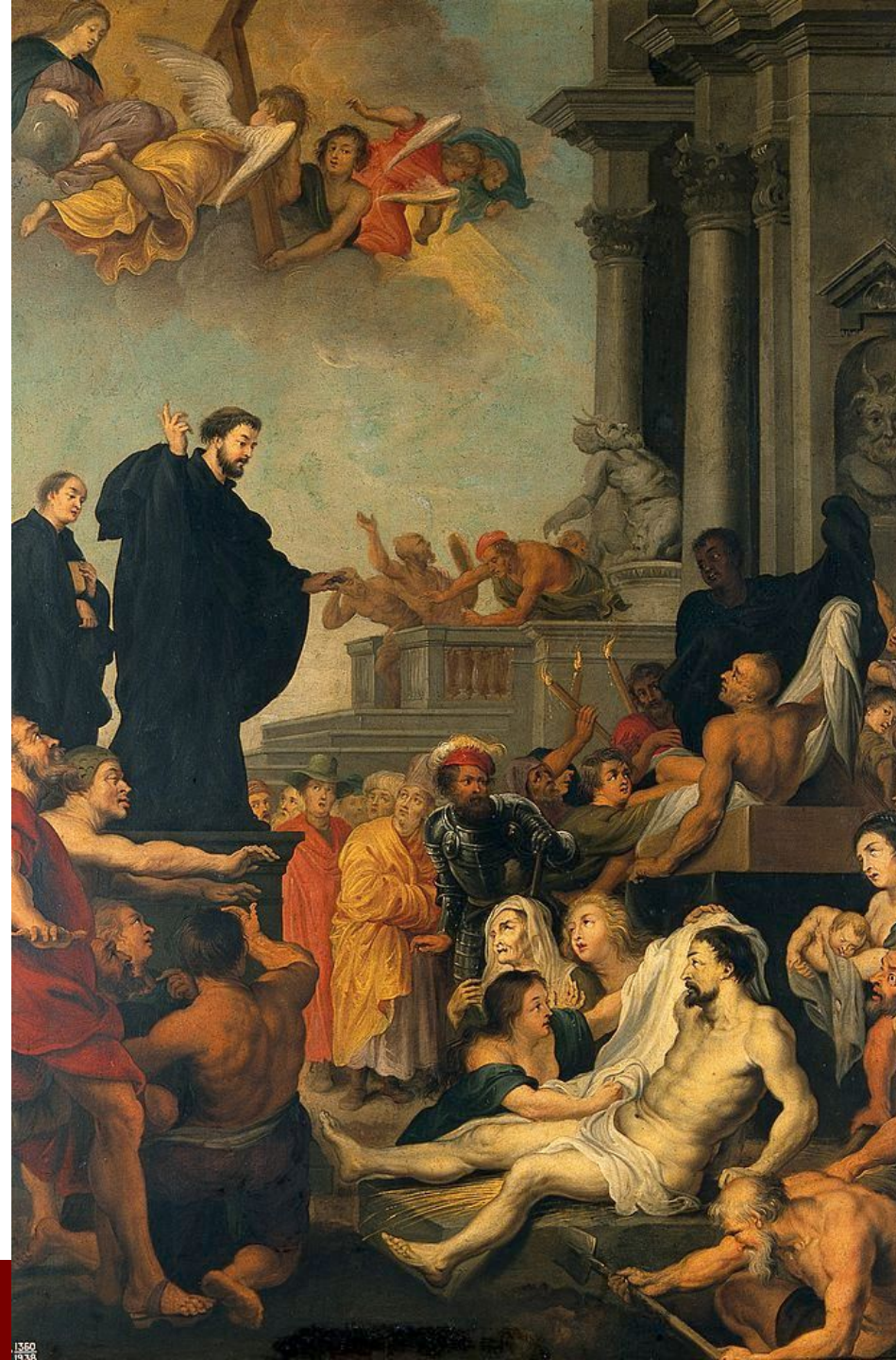
## 3. Pastoral Activity

### 3C. Missionary Initiative

St. Francis Xavier preaching and healing. Oil painting after Peter Paul Rubens –

The missionary success of St. Francis Xavier in Asia was only possible because he had been mentored by his roommate in the University of Paris, St. Ignatius of Loyola.

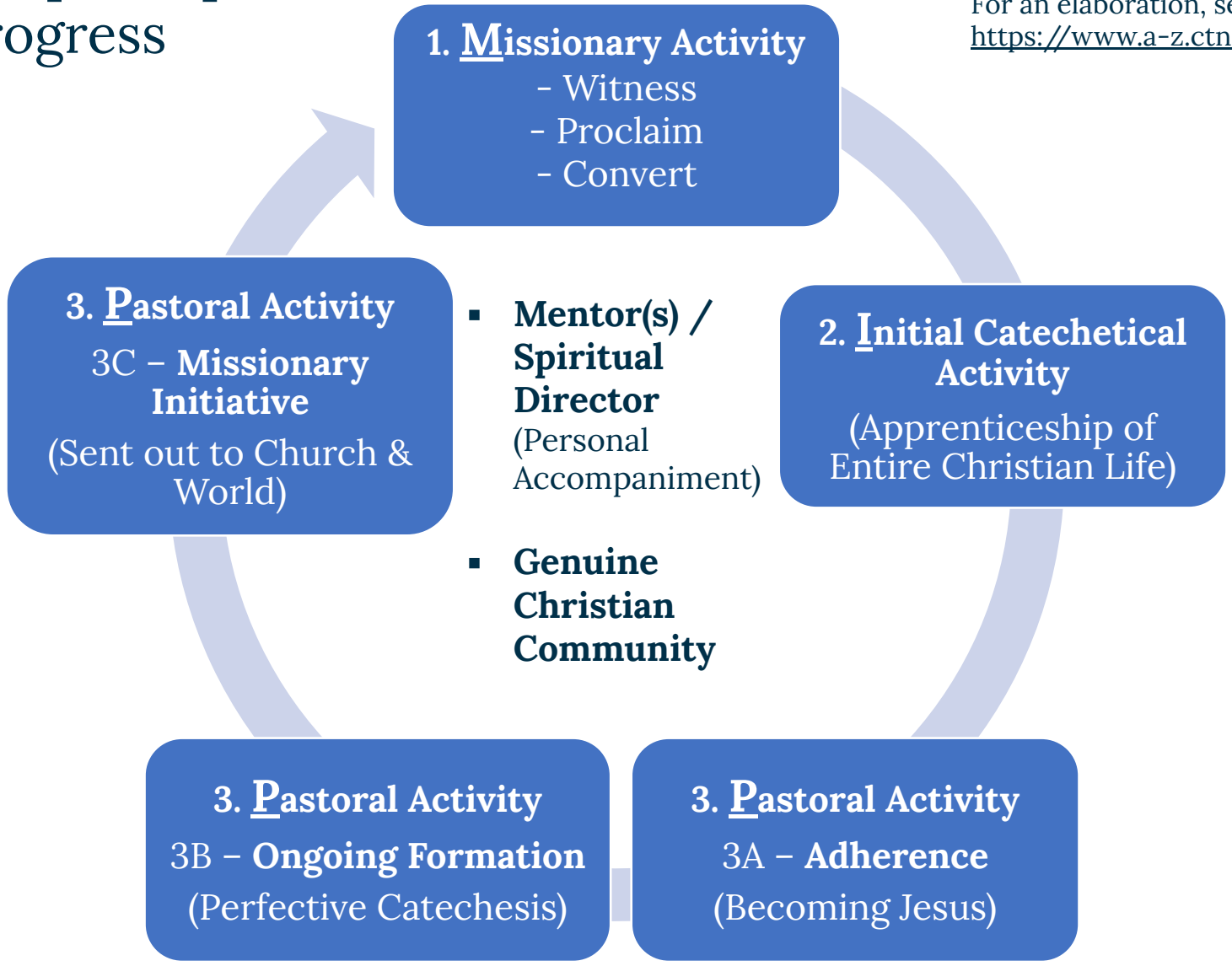
Initially resistant to his zeal, Francis developed respect for St. Ignatius and became one of the best missionaries the world had ever seen.



# Vision of Discipleship Process

## Mission In Progress

For an elaboration, see <https://www.a-z.ctn.sg/post/discipleship-part1-d1>





# Closing Prayer - Prayer of St. Bonaventure:

Lord Jesus Christ, pierce my soul with your love so that I may always long for you alone, who are the bread of angels and the fulfilment of the soul's deepest desires.

May my heart always hunger and feed upon you so that my soul may be filled with the sweetness of your presence.

May my soul thirst for you, who are the source of life, wisdom, knowledge, light and all the riches of God our Father.

May I always seek and find you, think upon you, speak to you and do all things for honour and glory of your holy name.

Be always my only hope, my peace, my refuge and my help in whom my heart is rooted so that I may never be separated from you.

Amen.