

July 22, 2015

Deacon Robert Ervin
The New Leaven Team
Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
1062 Church St.
Plymouth MI 48170-1149

Dear Dn. Ervin,

Witnessing the impact of our Alpha and New Leaven partnership over the past three years offers me great hope and joy. On-going conversion and deepening discipleship of those who have experienced this combination prompts me to submit this letter of enthusiastic support for your work and ministry.

The prayer we shared as your team launched New Leaven is being answered as the Holy Spirit continues to bring abundant fruit as a result of this “one – two punch.”

“What’s next?” is far and away the most asked question from pastors utilizing Alpha as a tool for evangelization. I look forward to the day when New Leaven is available in a high quality and repeatable format for broad distribution and use. New Leaven is a tool that is desperately needed in our Church today. Jesus said, “Follow me and I’ll make you fishers of men.” I think the data we are all too familiar with, reveals a crisis of discipleship. If we follow him we will produce fruit. I believe the obvious lack of fruit we experience is a direct result of our failure to raise-up disciples, credible witnesses, Catholics whose lives give witness to their words. This is why your work is so important to our Church today.

Faith is called forth through kerygmatic means, Alpha is an effective tool toward that end, but it is only the first step of forming intentional disciples. Faith brought forth requires formational catechesis and methods of disciple making. A missionary Church requires missionary disciples, apostles that can be sent into the world as light and leaven. New Leaven prepares the newly enflamed to become the missionary disciples we need today.

May the Lord bless and protect you and the entire team, continuing to produce abundant fruit through your ministry.

Peace and blessings,



Deacon Steve Mitchell
National Director | Alpha - Catholic context

“The Church is a place of mercy freely given, where everyone is welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the life of the Gospel.” Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel

**Alpha answers the call to
the New Evangelization.**

Dn. Steve Mitchell
National Director

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