

What do we mean by “Shaping the Parish”?

We mean that healthy parishes don't just happen. They require work at grounding their members in baptismal identity and to create communities living more fully as the Body of Christ.

Leaders shape the parish. So, healthy leaders are essential to the development of healthy and faithful parishes. Healthy parishes devote time and energy, and use proven methods and processes, that foster a deep spiritual and community life. What Augustine called “a real life.”

This is a new program focused on equipping parish leaders to shape healthier, more faithful parishes.

Shaping the Parish™ is:

- An integration of organization development, emotional and social intelligence, and ascetical theology and practice
- A program long enough to develop a critical mass of learning for the participant while being as efficient about time use as possible
- A program that provides the tools to successfully shape parishes toward a healthier life.

Three Themes

- Spiritual practice
- Emotional and social intelligence
- Change theory and methods

Grounded

Grounded in Anglican spirituality and the most effective methods of leadership and organization development.

Equipping

- Focuses on making immediate, tangible improvements while building long-term health.
- Equips participants for effective leadership through their own spiritual and personal growth and an increased ability to shape the parish.
- Provides the methods and knowledge needed to shape a parish culture centered in spiritual maturity and emotional intelligence.
- Gives you the tools to focus your energies around what works and the primary task of a parish church.
- Provides for the direct transfer of learning to the participant's leadership in the parish.

The Next Generation

Shaping the Parish™ moves the work of the past 35 years in the Church Development Institute (“CDI”), and other programs, to a whole new level of effectiveness.

Change

We would rather be ruined than changed,

We would rather die in our dread

Than climb the cross of the moment

And let our illusions die. W.H. Auden

Those who decide to participate in Shaping the Parish enter knowing that this is a decision about change, conversion, and transformation. We are joining together in a commitment to be open to change in how we manage our own emotions, thinking and behavior. We are involved in this program because we hope for a better parish and will act to make the changes needed.