



RUNNING THE RACE: THE MARATHON

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Diocese of St. Petersburg
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Scripture verses for your edification

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

Weight Watchers (WW):

When meeting with new members, the group leader asks them:

“What’s your why?”

What is the long-term motivation for you to lose weight?

- When volunteer ministers/disciples understand the “why” of their ministry, along with its long-term impact, their level of commitment will be deeper.
- Not just “volunteers,” but “ministers and disciples.”

- **EXAMPLE:** Jennifer agrees to teach her son's 2nd grade Faith Formation class, a long-term (about 9-month) commitment.
- We want to prepare her to “run the marathon” successfully.
- First, help her to see the potential long-term impact of her ministry.

- What is the potential long-term impact of Jennifer's ministry as catechist?
- Also, what are some ways to give Jennifer the best chance of success in her ministry?

Understanding the long-term impact

- Parable of the seed and the sower (Matt. 13:1-9)
- **WE'RE PLANTING SEEDS!**



Three questions:

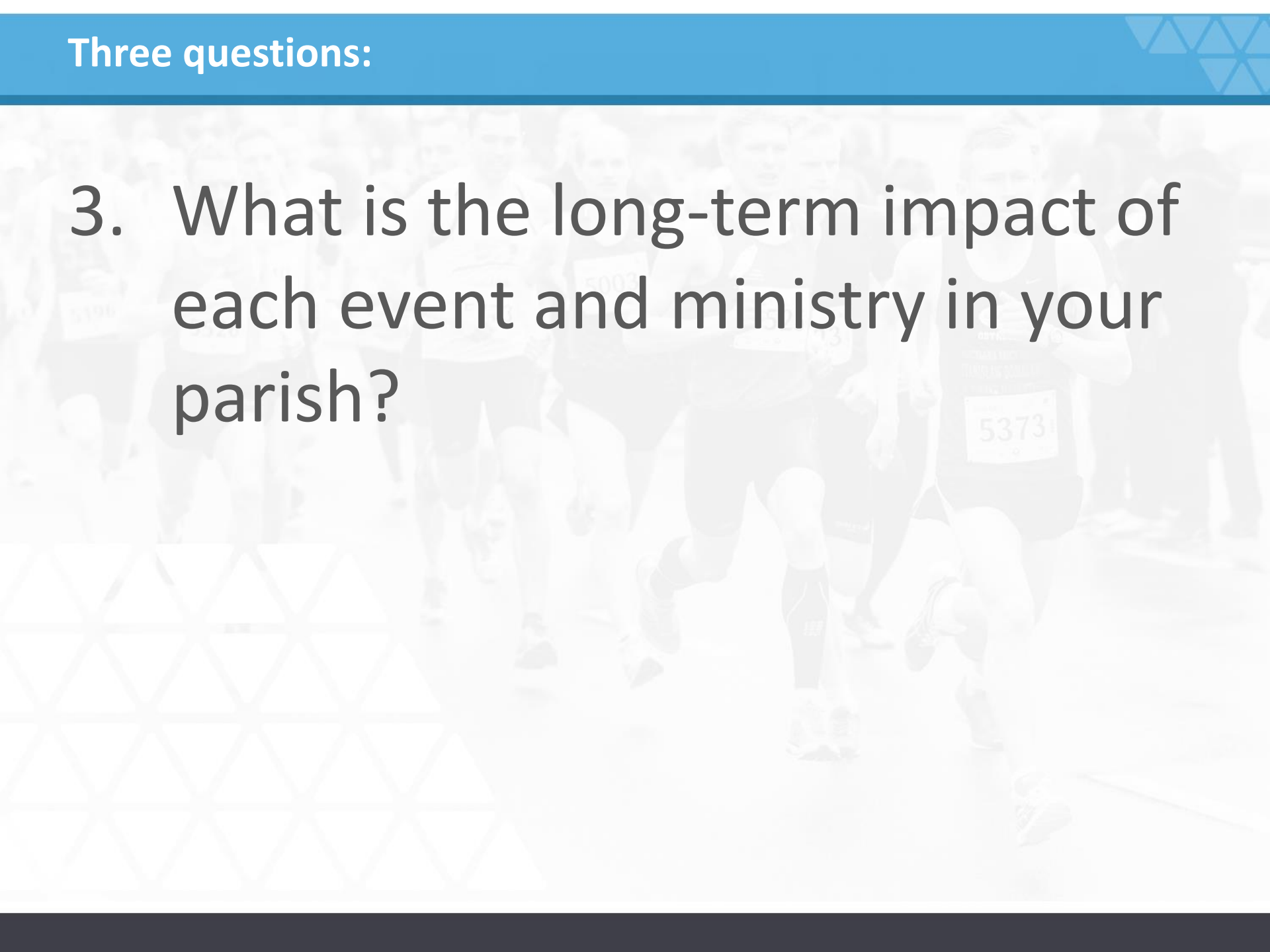
1. What are some upcoming initiatives in your parish? What are the long-term objectives for each initiative?

Three questions:

2. How do we bring people into a long-term (lifetime) commitment as disciples (lifelong learners), even if their involvement is only short-term?

Three questions:

3. What is the long-term impact of each event and ministry in your parish?

A background image of a marathon race. In the foreground, a male runner is captured in mid-stride, wearing a dark athletic singlet and shorts. His race bib number is 5373. Behind him, a large crowd of other runners is visible, though they are out of focus. The overall scene is bright and outdoors.

For your table discussion:

- In your parish groups, discuss 1-2 events that are being planned for your parish and the “why” that is driving them. What is the long-term impact of each event?



“Without a vision the people lose restraint; but happy is the one who follows instruction” (Proverbs 29:18)