



## **From the *Looking Forward* Gatherings 2014**

(from the powerpoint presentation).

### **Quotes from Pope Francis “The Joy of the Gospel” *Evangelii gaudium***

I dream of a “missionary option”,  
that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything,  
so that the Church’s customs,  
ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures  
can be suitably channeled for the evangelisation of today’s world  
rather than for her self-preservation.

The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion  
can only be understood in this light:  
as part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented,  
to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level  
more inclusive and open,  
to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth  
and in this way to elicit a positive response  
from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself. EG #27

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be “the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters”.

This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. EG #28

The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory,  
an environment for hearing God’s word,  
for growth in the Christian life,  
for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach,  
worship and celebration.

In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members  
to be evangelisers.

It is a community of communities,  
a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink  
in the midst of their journey,  
and a centre of constant missionary outreach. EG #28