

Preparatory Step One

Learn how to speak about pastoral ministry with comfort and ease.

Your activity:

Choose one of these terms and write a brief “elevator speech” in your own words. Each speech should be about one minute long, about the time it takes to ride an elevator up ten floors or so. Imagine you were riding that elevator when a stranger asked, “What do you people do at St Thomas More?” This speech is how you would explain that without using any hifalutin terms. (You may not use the terms provided in bold below.) Rehearse your speech and share it with your group. You may want to begin each speech with this line:

At St Thomas More, we...

Key terms and ideas:

1. Accompaniment

We listen to each person who comes to us for help. We listen without judgment, and we help the seeker discern what God may be asking of them in their particular, concrete situation.

2. Evangelization

We invite and welcome people in Jesus’ name. We invite them into full life in the church and welcome them into the family of God.

3. Catechesis

We allow the teachings of Jesus to echo loudly in our lives. In this way, others can see and understand in their own lives what we profess in ours. We explain or teach only what is not made clear in that echo.

4. Outreach, Justice, Pastoral care, & other Acts of Love

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another. We undertake the work of tending to the needs of all who ask for comfort, healing, and help among us, but also by fighting for justice and peace in our time.

5. The Paschal Mystery

Jesus teaches us through his self-giving love to give ourselves to one another, dying to ourselves out of love for each other. We find embedded in even the most dire situations a summons to self-giving love, and we must learn to hear that call.