

# Creating Community



Archdiocese of Hartford

Jane Angha

**Hospitality sets  
the stage  
for an encounter  
with Christ**



Describe a time  
you felt really  
welcome or that  
you belonged.

# You were:

- noticed
- greeted
- engaged
- invited in



Jesus noticed people

- the blind
- the lame
- women
- children
- sinners
- those in the background

**We will  
start  
there -  
because  
Jesus  
did!**

Jesus listened to people

- his friends
- those who needed something
- wine, healing, a little resurrection

He looked with compassion /pity

**We will  
start  
there -  
Because  
Jesus  
did!**



Bishop Caggiano- the Fiorello's



Needs - belonging, heard, seen, understood, connected, purpose, meaning, leadership, a voice, faith development, challenge, joy, hope,



# Efforts in the pandemic

**how did you reach out?**

phone  
letters/cards  
live stream  
social media  
visits/drop offs  
tail gates/modified gathering  
weddings, funerals, baptisms, first  
communion/reconciliation?  
what else?

**what could have been better?**

phone  
letters/cards  
live stream  
social media  
visits/drop offs  
tail gates/modified gathering  
weddings, funerals, baptisms, first  
communion/reconciliation?  
what else?

# how welcoming will your parish or ministry become?



**what are you letting go of?**

**what will you keep?**

# A good place to start is with listening

what are the longings and losses of our community?

we are changed because of the pandemic:

trauma

habits

loneliness

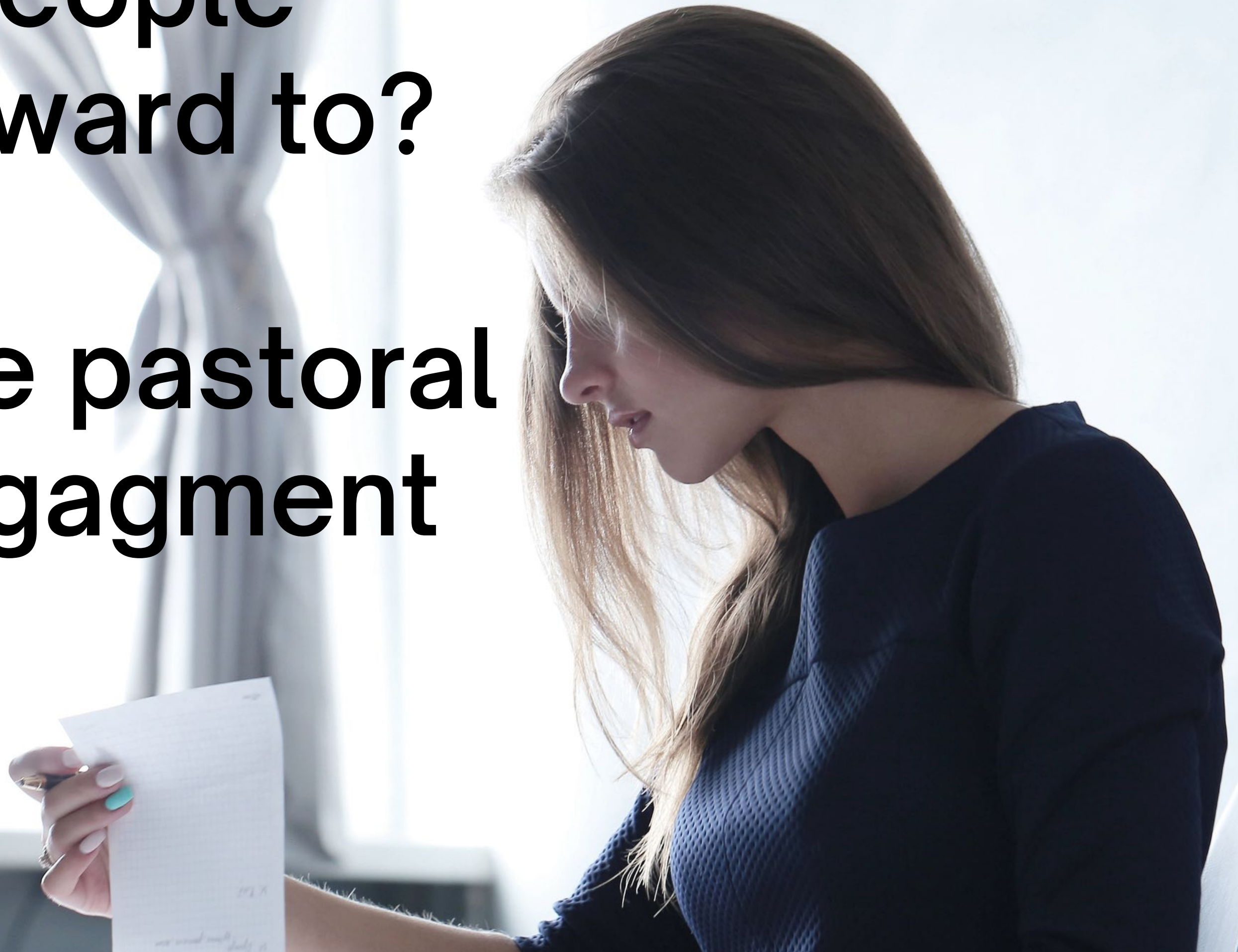
staff stretched thin/disconnected

worry and fear

depression

**What are people  
looking forward to?**

**How are we pastoral  
in our reengagement  
plans?**



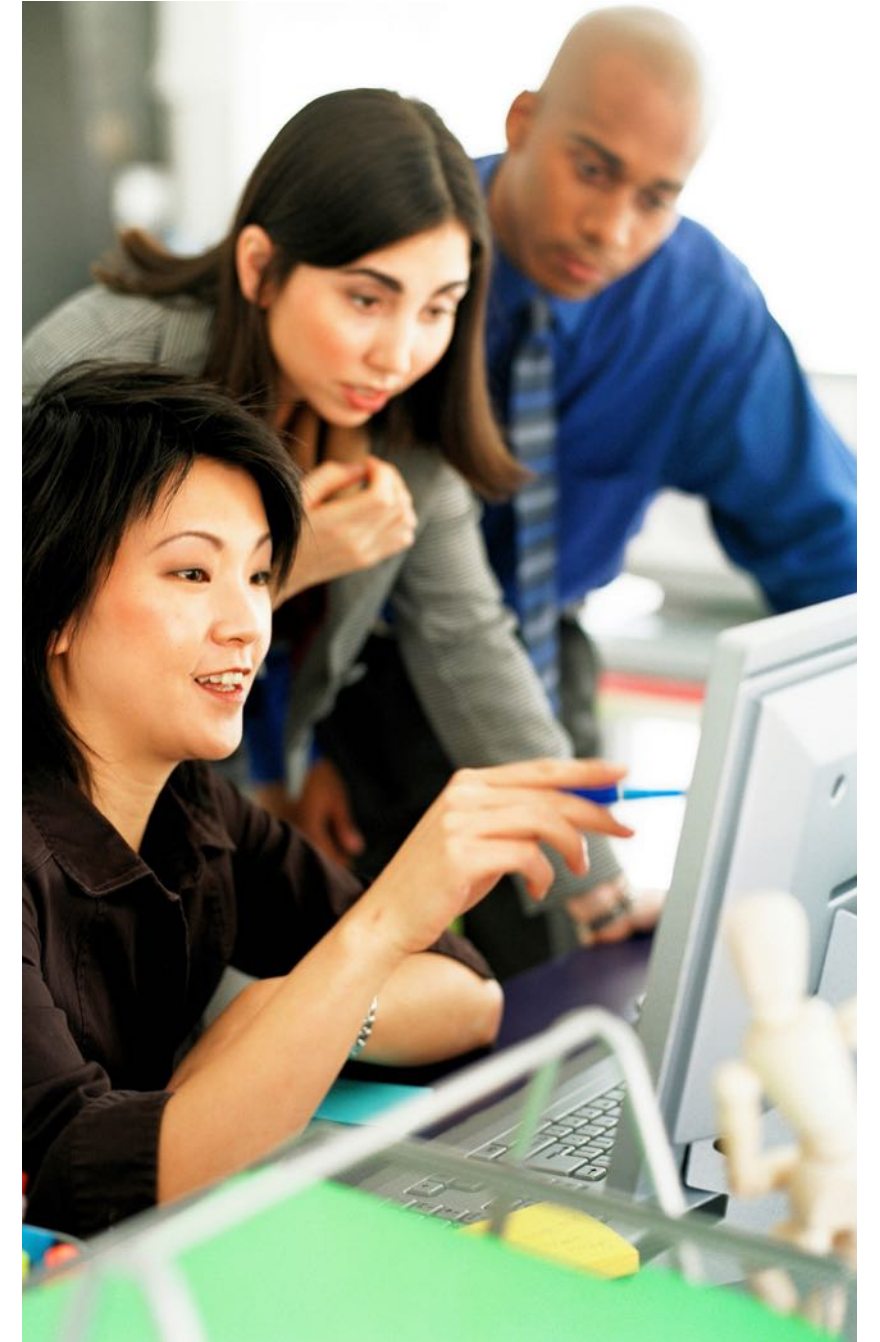
Helping  
ministry  
areas  
assess  
+  
plan



listening



discerning



implementing

# Resource:

The Innovating Church

Scott Cormode



**We need to adapt - meet our  
people where they are - and who  
they have become...**

**we are not the same people as before**

**we need more...**

**to go deeper**

**to use our time well**

**to say what we mean**

**be brave and bold**

# We build community through hospitality

lights on, warm welcome, safe space, clean space, know how to engage, people to help, information, signage, invitation, acknowledgement, how to do church here ( FF, Adult Ed, youth ministry, sacraments etc), never a disparaging word, food, refreshments, needs anticipated, joyful people up front.

Helping people feel like they belong and are part of the community right away.  
They are the insiders.



# Assessment

goal - to have everyone  
feel like an insider

What does being an insider look like in my  
ministry or my parish?

Make a list:

How well are  
we doing  
helping  
people feel  
like they  
belong  
right now?



- newcomers?
- sometimes people?
- those in our mission field?
- just the fun stuff people?
- regulars?
- homebound?

A photograph of a crowd of people at an outdoor event, possibly a festival or fair. The foreground is dominated by the lower legs and feet of several individuals standing on a gravelly or dirt path. One person on the left wears dark pants and brown shoes. Next to them, another person wears dark jeans and black sneakers. To the right, a person wears denim shorts and black sneakers, and another person wears red sneakers. The background is filled with a blurred crowd of people, some wearing light blue hoodies, and structures of the event under a bright, warm light. The text "What will it take?" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

What will it take?

# Innovate a bit

<https://youtu.be/yLsSy64xILI>  
Eat Together Commercial

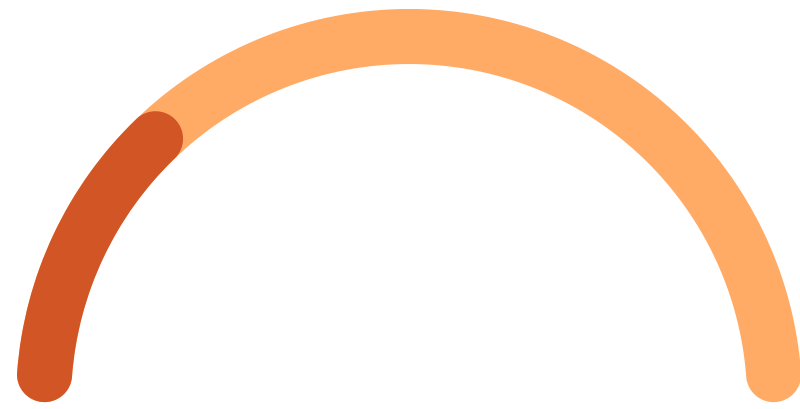
change -making takes  
bravery, passion and  
determination



Start where you are:  
Empathy  
Brainstorm  
Prototype  
Test



# innovation



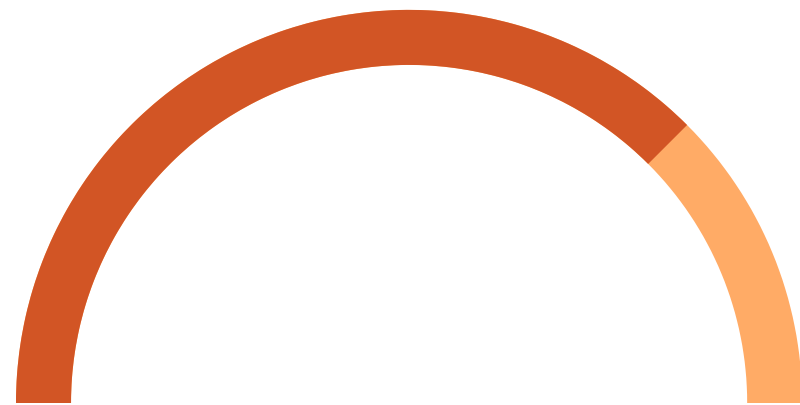
## Empathy

what are you passionate about?  
what is a great need right now?



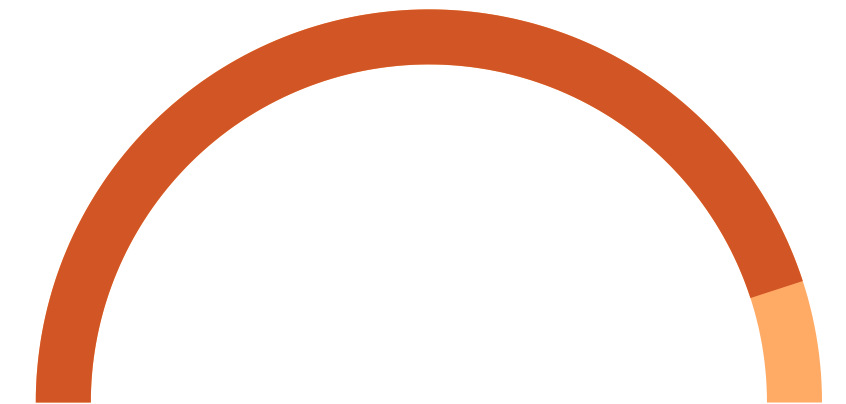
## Brainstorm

Come up with a fabulous long list of  
ideas from crazy to doable, everything  
goes!



## Design a Prototype

Put your skills to work - create a process,  
event, celebration, session, experience...



## Test

Try it out!  
Evaluate, tweak and  
do it all again!



let's try it out



# Idea

**empathy- passion  
around community  
building and  
welcoming culture**



# Brainstorm

The image shows a whiteboard or wall covered in numerous colorful sticky notes. The notes contain various business-related terms and concepts. A hand in the foreground is holding a pink sticky note with the word 'RISK' written on it. Other visible sticky notes include 'IDEAS', 'SOCIAL MEDIA', 'LIST', 'DECISION MAKING', 'CONTENT', 'PEOPLE RESOURCE', 'TEAM', 'ANALYZE PERFORMANCE', 'RESPONSIVE WEB DESIGN', 'LIFE BALANCE', 'PROJECT LOGO', 'PLAN', 'ESSET ALLOCATION', 'GOALS', 'STRATEGY', 'SALES CUSTOMER RETENTION', 'IDENTIFY FOCUS AREAS', 'ESTABLISH GOALS', 'PERIODIC ONGOING', 'ESTABLISH GOALS', 'CON...', 'LIFE BALANCE', 'PROJECT LOGO', 'PLAN', 'ESSET ALLOCATION', 'GOALS', 'STRATEGY', 'SALES CUSTOMER RETENTION', 'IDENTIFY FOCUS AREAS', 'ESTABLISH GOALS', 'PERIODIC ONGOING', 'ESTABLISH GOALS'.



# Design

**name and description of idea.**

**objective: what do you hope to accomplish?**

**outline: A quick glance at the project.**

**details: who, what, where, why, when  
cost, marketing, inviting, serving, follow up  
evaluation.**

# Test

Try it out?

What do you need in order to do that?

Approval, date, budget, help,

resources, space, safety protocols etc.

every  
ministry  
can do  
this



we can't go back to pre covid church - we have the opportunity to let go of things that weren't working, be creative, think in new ways, invite new people in and create the kind of church we dream of. One where all are welcome!

# Favorite Scriptures on Hospitality

## Hebrews 3:12

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels.

## 1 Peter 4:9

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

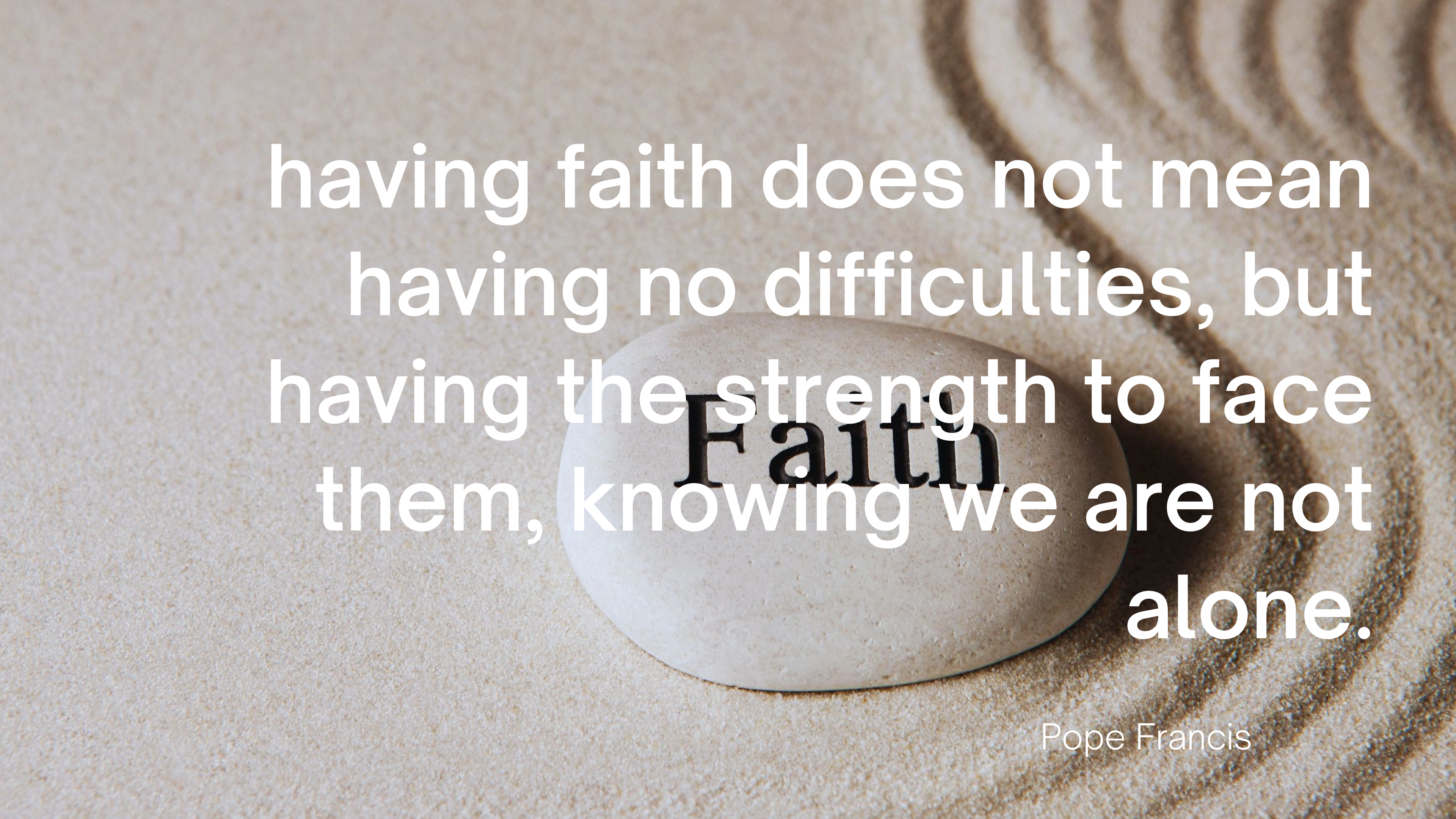
## Titus 1:8

Be hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

## 3 John 1:5

Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are.





having faith does not mean  
having no difficulties, but  
having the strength to face  
them, knowing we are not  
alone.

Pope Francis

# resources:



**MINISTRY BLUEPRINTS**  
FOR HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME

\*[https://youtu.be/WgD8S0Mc\\_S8](https://youtu.be/WgD8S0Mc_S8), Comercial - eating together CRAVE

\*Innovating Church by Scott Cormode, Baker Academic, 2020

<https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-priya-parker-on-the-art-of-gathering/>

<https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-priya-parker-on-how-we-return-and-why-it-matters-part-1-of-2/>

<https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-priya-parker-a-meeting-makeover/>

<https://churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/321942-millennials-and-church-are-looking-for-in-a-church-carey-nieuwhof.html/3>

[www.ministryblueprints.com](http://www.ministryblueprints.com)

# Ministry Blueprints

Works to help churches, schools and communities grow through hospitality, welcome and dynamic culture.

We offer workshops, training and resources for staff, ministries, individuals and teams on hospitality, building a culture of belonging, listening, assessing, and innovating.

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