The parish planning survey was administered by parishes and schools between October and December 2015 in support of the Be Missionary Disciples planning process. The survey was designed to complement Archbishop William E. Lori’s pastoral letter, *A Light Brightly Visible: Lighting the Path to Missionary Discipleship*, as a way to help understand how people would answer key questions laid out in the letter.

The survey was not designed to achieve a statistically random or complete sample of respondents, so it will yield only partial and somewhat biased results. In this light, the results are meant to be used in conjunction with parish statistics and demographics to provide a more complete picture of challenges and opportunities to missionary discipleship and evangelization-based planning. A copy of the survey can be found online at [www.BeMissionaryDisciples.org/planning/pastoral-planning-tools/](http://www.BeMissionaryDisciples.org/planning/pastoral-planning-tools/). For more information on the survey or the Be Missionary Disciples planning process, contact the Daphne Daly, Director of the Office of Pastoral Planning at 410-547-5545 or Daphne.Daly@archbalt.org.
**Family Demographics**

**Marital Status** (n=1,728)

- 72% Married or have been married
- 27% Widowed
- 13% Divorced
- 13% Single
- 46% Unmarried, living together

**Children Under 18 in Household?** (n=1,698)

- 73% No children under 18 in household
- 27% Have children under 18 in household

**How do your children receive religious education?** (n=676)

- Parish-based (through 8th grade): 44%
- In home: 42%
- Catholic school: 23%
- Catholic Youth Ministry (Middle or High): 21%
- Other religious ed. (through 8th grade): 9%
- Other formal programs: 8%
- None of the above: 7%

**Greatest challenges passing faith to children** (n=472)

- Swimming against the tide in a society that does not value faith: 47%
- Children are not interested enough: 10%
- I do not feel prepared or knowledgeable enough about the faith: 6%
- No good opportunities to bring up faith matters: 6%
- I am not interested enough: 1%
- Other: 8%
- None of the above: 35%

**Faith activities with children** (n=2,277)

- Attend Mass regularly: 60%
- Point out the many ways in which we are blessed: 55%
- Prepare them for sacraments: 55%
- Pray together as a family (bedtime, mealtime, etc.): 52%
- Teach prayers, hymns: 51%
- Use Christ as the reference point for decision-making: 40%
- Enroll them in religious education classes: 34%
- Encourage participation in youth groups: 34%
- Enroll them in Catholic schools: 21%
- Read the Bible and spiritual reading together: 11%
- Other: 5%
**Archdiocese of Baltimore**

**Baltimore, MD**

Are we equipped to fulfill the great commission to make disciples of all nations?

**Willingness to Share Faith (n=1,685)**

- **81%** would proactively share their faith in some way.
  - Welcome the opportunity: 15%
  - Be happy to share, but not debate: 14%
  - Be willing to share, but only if asked: 66%
  - Do not share, do not know enough about faith: 67%
  - Do not share, faith is private: 74%
  - Avoid the conversation: 63%
  - Other: 6%
  - None of the above: 3%

**How Would Someone Know You Are a Christian? (n=5,092)**

- **74%** know someone is a Christian if they are kind, charitable, respectful, and forgiving to all.
- **59%** know someone is a Christian if they mention attending church in conversation.
- **46%** know someone is a Christian if they serve those in need.
- **67%** know someone is a Christian if they talk about God in their life.
- **30%** know someone is a Christian if they discuss words of Pope Francis or from Church.
- **20%** know someone is a Christian if they share faith through social media.
- **1%** know someone is a Christian if they choose None of the above.

**With Whom Do You Talk About Faith? (n=4,848)**

- **81%** talk about faith with adult family members.
- **77%** talk about faith with friends.
- **57%** talk about faith with my children.
- **49%** talk about faith with co-workers, neighbors.
- **29%** talk about faith with strangers.
- **3%** talk about faith with no one.

**Greatest Obstacles to Sharing Faith? (n=2,239)**

- **35%** do not want to push beliefs.
- **34%** are not encouraged by society.
- **28%** others are not interested.
- **20%** no good opportunities.
- **20%** not knowledgeable enough.
- **7%** afraid to offend, made fun of.
- **4%** not interested.

**What Is Evangelization? (n=3,781)**

- **74%** bear witness through way I live my life.
- **66%** talking about God and Jesus.
- **63%** sharing faith story.
- **62%** trying to convert others.
- **10%** something preachers do on TV, street corners.
- **2%** other.

*REFLECTION AND NOTES*
Do we personally have the qualities of mind, heart, and spirit to take up this task?

**RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (n=1,635) and SPIRITUAL GROWTH (n=1,601)**

- **Q21, Q22**
  - Jesus at the center: 51%
  - Relationship, growing: 40%
  - Relationship, but do not practice: 2%
  - Practice, no relationship: 5%
  - Spiritual, but do not practice: 2%
  - Do not practice or feel spiritual: 0%

**RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (n=1,635) and SPIRITUAL GROWTH (n=1,601)**

- **Q23**
  - Growing steadily: 70%
  - Growing slowly: 1%
  - Neither: 23%
  - Declining: 6%

**FAITH ACTIVITIES (n=5,037)**

- **Q23**
  - Prayer outside of Mass
  - Reading/reflection on scripture, writings, teachings
  - Outreach to sick, needy, and grieving
  - Devotions (rosary, novenas, wearing scapulars, etc.)
  - Small groups, guided prayer, or spiritual direction
  - Eucharistic adoration
  - Charismatic prayer, lay ecclesiastical movements
  - Other
  - None

**FREQUENCY OF CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES (of those who participate)**

- **Q23**
  - Daily: 84%
  - Weekly: 10%
  - Few times a Month: 5%
  - Few times a Year: 0%

**REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING MASS AT MAIN PARISH (n=4,249)**

- **Q27**
  - 1 - Sports or other activities
  - 2 - Don't feel I need to come to church every week
  - 3 - Working or in school
  - 4 - Also attend church elsewhere
  - 5 - Church is becoming less relevant in my life
  - 6 - Health problems or disability
  - 7 - Spiritual needs are not being met here
  - 8 - Divorce or marriage outside Church
  - 9 - Poor preaching
  - 10 - Parish is not welcoming
  - 11 - Priest is not welcoming
  - 12 - Lack of transportation
  - 13 - Lack of children’s ministry
  - 14 - Parish does not reflect my language/ethnic/cultural identity
  - 15 - No special needs ministry
  - 16 - Church not accessible
  - 17 - Other
Are our parishes ready to respond to the challenges of the mission in our times? (Part I)

**PARISH-LIFE DEMOGRAPHICS**

**SELF-IDENTIFICATION (n=2,368)**
- Parishioner: 68%
- Regular attendee: 24%
- Visitor: 8%

**REGISTERED? (n=1,720) and FOR HOW LONG? (n=1,543)**
- Registered: 88%
- Not Registered: 12%
- Don't Know: 9%

**TRAVEL TIME TO PARISH (n=1,728) and ATTENDANCE (n=1,728)**
- Travel less than 20 minutes: 68%
- 10-20 minutes: 12%
- 20 minutes or more: 32%

**ARE VOCATIONS PROMOTED? (n=1,578)**
- No: 9%
- Don't Know: 28%
- Yes: 63%

**MULTI-CULTURAL PARISH? (n=1,489) and if so, INTEGRATED? (n=779)**
- At least "Somewhat": 61%
- "Somewhat": 37%
- Yes: 23%
- No: 18%
- Uncertain: 58%
Are our parishes ready to respond to the challenges of the mission in our times? (Part II)

PARISH INSPIRING (n=1,603) & WOULD RECOMMEND? (n=1,616) Q29, Q30

- 80% are firmly inspired by their parish
- 64% would recommend their parish

PARISH INSIGHTS (4 or 5 on 5-point scale) Q31, Q32, Q33

- My spiritual needs are being met here (n=1,604) 80%
- I feel like I am a valued member of this parish (n=1,603) 79%
- Encouraged in spiritual growth by someone in the parish (n=1,586) 73%

WHERE COULD THE PARISH GIVE THE MOST SUPPORT? (n=4,621) Q35

- Christ-centered parish
- Engaging homilies
- Feeling of warmth and welcome
- Holy, reverent worship experience
- Service-oriented parish
- Joy and excitement in parishioners
- Dynamic, lively worship experience
- Inspiring adult faith formation
- Engaging children’s ministry
- Outstanding music
- Welcomes immigrant families
- Fun social gatherings
- Beautiful architecture and grounds

PARISH ASPECTS: IMPORTANCE x SATISFACTION (4 or 5 on 5-point scale) Q28

- Importance
- Satisfaction
- Difference

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What decisions need to be made so we can marshal the resources the Lord has given us?

**PERCEPTIONS OF GOD’S GIFTS**

Q38, Q39

I have thought about the gifts God has given me and how they might be used

(n=1,519)

- 16% Strongly Agree
- 41% Agree
- 43% Neither
- 5% Disagree
- 2% Strongly Disagree

I consider the time and talent I contribute to be a form of ministry

(n=1,420)

- 17% Strongly Agree
- 39% Agree
- 43% Neither
- 10% Disagree
- 8% Strongly Disagree

**TIME AND TALENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

(n=1,508)

- 28% are seeking to contribute but are not currently
- 51% I regularly contribute
- 11% I would like to but don’t know how
- 17% I would like to but I am too busy
- 10% I don’t contribute
- 3% I don’t feel like my contributions are welcome or appreciated
- 8% Other

**REASONS FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

(n=2,617)

1. My contributions support the ongoing presence and work of this particular parish
2. My contributions support the core mission of the Church to spread the Gospel, form disciples, and serve others
3. It is my obligation as a Catholic to support the Church
4. I cannot make financial contributions at this time, but would like to
5. I do not make financial contributions

**RATING OF PARISH’S FINANCIAL HEALTH**

(n=1,548)

- 7% Do not know
- 8% Poor
- 32% Fair
- 44% Good
- 9% Excellent

**RATING OF SIZE AND CONDITION OF PARISH FACILITIES**

(Worship Space (n=2,072))

- 24% Just Right
- 11% Too Big
- 44% Too Small
- 91% Do not know

(Fellowship Space (n=2,072))

- 7% Just Right
- 5% Too Big
- 13% Too Small
- 36% Do not know

(Outdoor Areas (n=2,072))

- 12% Just Right
- 5% Too Big
- 13% Too Small
- 33% Do not know

(Parking (n=2,072))

- 31% Just Right
- 24% Too Big
- 27% Too Small
- 64% Do not know
How can we reach out more dynamically to those who have left or are searching?

REASONS WHY YOU THINK PEOPLE LEAVE THE CHURCH (n=3,379) Q19

- Disagree with Church teachings on specific... 32%
- Not getting enough out of Mass/not being... 49%
- Gradual loss of interest 32%
- Dissatisfied with atmosphere in church 31%
- Clergy sex-abuse issue 17%
- Spiritual needs not being met 50%
- Not feeling welcomed 18%
- No longer believe 8%
- Other 9%

(multiple selections possible)

HOW TO HELP RECONNECT PEOPLE WITH THE FAITH? (n=6,367) Q20

- Pray for them 79%
- Be open to their questions about the Church and its... 53%
- Let them know they are missed and always welcome 57%
- Share why you remain a committed Catholic 38%
- Listen to their pains and concerns and accompany them in... 45%
- Offer a personal invitation to attend Mass with you 50%
- Invite them to parish social events 41%
- Introduce them to your parish friends and/or pastor 30%
- Other 3%

(multiple selections possible)

Are there ways we can pull together as a Catholic community to proclaim the Gospel more effectively?

WAYS TO COLLABORATE WITH ANOTHER PARISH? (n=4,687) Q43

1. Service and outreach ministries 44%
2. Evangelization 51%
3. Youth ministry 43%
4. Young adult ministry 36%
5. Adult faith formation 28%
6. Religious education 38%
7. Sacramental preparation 24%
8. Parish and/or pastoral staff 18%
9. Music ministry 23%
10. Other 3%
11. Do not know 14%

(multiple selections possible)