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.
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Baltimore, MD

**Family Demographics**

### MARITAL STATUS (n=5,767)

- **94%** are married or have been married
- **2%** Married
- **4%** Widowed
- **5%** Divorced
- **2%** Single
- **0%** Unmarried, living together

### CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD? (n=5,795)

- **100%** Have children under 18 in household

### HOW DO YOUR CHILDREN RECEIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION? (n=8,602)

- **44%** Parish-based (through 8th grade)
- **41%** In home
- **29%** Catholic school
- **21%** Catholic Youth Ministry (Middle or High)
- **16%** Other religious ed. (through 8th grade)
- **8%** Other
- **5%** None of the above

### GREATEST CHALLENGES PASSING FAITH TO CHILDREN (n=6,726)

- **55%** Swimming against the tide in a society that does not value faith
- **16%** 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
- **2%** I am not interested enough
- **12%** Other
- **23%** None of the above

### FAITH ACTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN (n=31,286)

1. Attend Mass regularly
2. Point out the many ways in which we are blessed
3. Prepare them for sacraments
4. Pray together as a family (bedtime, mealtime, etc.)
5. Teach prayers, hymns
6. Use Christ as the reference point for decision-making
7. Enroll them in religious education classes
8. Encourage participation in youth groups
9. Enroll them in Catholic schools
10. Read the Bible and spiritual reading together
11. Other
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Are we equipped to fulfill the great commission to make disciples of all nations?

**Q14: Willingness to Share Faith (n=5,663)**
- 24% would proactively share their faith in some way
- 70% would not share faith
- 25% would not share faith or did not know enough about faith

**Q15: How Would Someone Know You Are a Christian? (n=17,727)**
- 85% Be kind, charitable, respectful, and forgiving to all
- 71% Mention attending church in conversation
- 50% Serve those in need
- 46% Talk about God in my life
- 31% Discuss words of Pope Francis or from Church
- 24% Share faith through social media
- 19% Other
- 1% None of the above

**Q16: With Whom Do You Talk About Faith? (n=16,507)**
- 86% Friends
- 68% My children
- 42% Co-workers, neighbors
- 2% Stranger
- 0% No one

**Q17: Greatest Obstacles to Sharing Faith? (n=9,476)**
- 42% Not knowledgeable enough
- 30% Afraid to offend, made fun of
- 16% Not encouraged by society
- 15% Others not interested
- 6% No good opportunities

**Q18: What Is Evangelization? (n=11,811)**
- 60% Bearing witness through way I live my life
- 59% Talking about God and Jesus
- 51% Sharing faith story
- 27% Trying to convert others
- 14% Something preachers do on TV, street corners
- 2% Other
Do we personally have the qualities of mind, heart, and spirit to take up this task?

**RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (n=5,444) and SPIRITUAL GROWTH (n=5,455)**

- **Jesus at the center**: 58%
- **Relationship, growing**: 38%
- **Practice, no relationship**: 16%
- **Spiritual, but do not practice**: 3%
- **Do not practice or feel spiritual**: 0%

- **Growing steadily**: 40%
- **Growing slowly**: 16%
- **Neither**: 2%
- **Declining**: 41%

**FAITH ACTIVITIES (n=14,882)**

1. Prayer outside of Mass
2. Reading/reflecting on scripture, writings, teachings
3. Outreach to sick, needy, and grieving
4. Devotions (rosary, novenas, wearing scapulars, etc.)
5. Small groups, guided prayer, or spiritual direction
6. Eucharistic adoration
7. Charismatic prayer, lay ecclesiastical movements
8. Other
9. None

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

- **Prayer (n=4,705)**: 79%
- **Devotions (n=1,932)**: 21%
- **Eucharistic Adoration (n=1,457)**: 38%

**REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING MASS AT MAIN PARISH (n=12,839)**

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)

Are vocations promoted? (n=5,288)

- 8% No
- 24% Don’t Know
- 67% Yes

Multi-cultural parish? (n=5,140) and if so, integrated? (n=2,340)

- 51% at least “Somewhat”
- 31% Yes
- 20% Somewhat
- 8% Uncertain
- 41% No

The parish provides strong pastoral care and formation for multiple cultures, and multiple cultures are integrated into and reflect in the liturgical and ministerial life of the parish.

The parish provides strong pastoral care and formation for multiple cultures, but they are liturgically and ministerially separate.

The parish provides some pastoral care and formation for multiple cultures, but only one culture is reflected in the liturgical and ministerial life of the parish.
Are our parishes ready to respond to the challenges of the mission in our times? (Part II)

PARISH INSPIRING (n=5,311) & WOULD RECOMMEND? (n=5,334) Q29, Q30

76% are firmly inspired by their parish

91% would recommend their parish

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

My spiritual needs are being met here (n=5,299)
I feel like I am a valued member of this parish (n=5,304)
Encouraged in spiritual growth by someone in the parish (n=5,280)

WHERE COULD THE PARISH GIVE THE MOST SUPPORT? (n=13,955) Q35

WHERE COULD THE PARISH GIVE THE MOST SUPPORT? (n=13,955) Q35

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

Importance

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

**Reflection and Notes**

**Perceptions of God’s Gifts**

- I have thought about the gifts God has given me and how they might be used (n=5,159)
  - 17% Strongly Disagree
  - 45% Disagree
  - 36% Neither
  - 3% Agree
  - 3% Strongly Agree

- I consider the time and talent I contribute to be a form of ministry (n=5,019)
  - 18% Strongly Disagree
  - 42% Disagree
  - 38% Neither
  - 10% Agree
  - 7% Strongly Agree

**Reasons for Financial Contributions** (n=8,058)

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 Size and Condition of Parish Facilities**

- Worship Space (n=5,795)
  - Size: 36% Just Right, 41% Too Big, 5% Too Small, 8% Do not know
  - Condition: 83% Excellent, 12% Adequate, 5% Needs Attention, 4% Do not know

- Fellowship Space (n=5,795)
  - Size: 36% Just Right, 41% Too Big, 5% Too Small, 8% Do not know
  - Condition: 83% Excellent, 12% Adequate, 5% Needs Attention, 4% Do not know

- Outdoor Areas (n=5,795)
  - Size: 16% Just Right, 55% Too Big, 12% Too Small, 11% Do not know
  - Condition: 42% Excellent, 45% Adequate, 8% Needs Attention, 2% Do not know

- Parking (n=5,795)
  - Size: 37% Just Right, 37% Too Big, 14% Too Small, 14% Do not know
  - Condition: 71% Excellent, 26% Adequate, 14% Needs Attention, 8% 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=13,633)**

- Disagree with Church teachings on specific issue: 60%
- Not getting enough out of Mass/not being fed spiritually: 40%
- Gradual loss of interest: 36%
- Dissatisfied with atmosphere in church: 34%
- Clergy sex-abuse issue: 31%
- Spiritual needs not being met: 25%
- Not feeling welcomed: 21%
- No longer believe: 16%
- Other: 11% (multiple selections possible)

**HOW TO HELP RECONNECT PEOPLE WITH THE FAITH? (n=19,102)**

- Pray for them: 73%
- Be open to their questions about the Church and its teachings: 53%
- Let them know they are missed and always welcome: 47%
- Share why you remain a committed Catholic: 43%
- Listen to their pains and concerns and accompany them in faith: 42%
- Offer a personal invitation to attend Mass with you: 40%
- Invite them to parish social events: 33%
- Introduce them to your parish friends and/or pastor: 21%
- Other: 4% (multiple selections possible)

**WAYS TO COLLABORATE WITH ANOTHER PARISH? (n=14,912)**

- 1 - Service and outreach ministries: 50%
- 2 - Evangelization: 38%
- 3 - Youth ministry: 43%
- 4 - Young adult ministry: 37%
- 5 - Adult faith formation: 31%
- 6 - Religious education: 32%
- 7 - Sacramental preparation: 21%
- 8 - Parish and/or pastoral staff: 17%
- 9 - Music ministry: 17%
- 10 - Other: 3%
- 11 - Do not know: 15% (multiple selections possible)

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