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=531)**
- 62% Married or have been married
- 35% Single
- 7% Divorced
- 10% Widowed
- 9% Unmarried, living together

**CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD? (n=521)**
- 80% No children under 18 in household
- 20% Have children under 18 in household

**HOW DO YOUR CHILDREN RECEIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION? (n=148)**
- Parish-based (through 8th grade)
- Catholic school
- Catholic Youth Ministry (Middle or High)
- Other religious ed. (through 8th grade)
- Other

**GREATEST CHALLENGES PASSING FAITH TO CHILDREN (n=122)**
- Swimming against the tide in a society that does not value faith: 38%
- Children are not interested enough: 17%
- I do not feel prepared or knowledgeable enough about the faith: 6%
- No good opportunities to bring up faith matters: 8%
- I am not interested enough: 2%
- Other: 15%

**FAITH ACTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN (n=493)**
- Attend Mass regularly: 75%
- Point out the many ways in which we are blessed: 62%
- Prepare them for sacraments: 56%
- Pray together as a family (bedtime, mealtime, etc.): 56%
- Teach prayers, hymns: 56%
- Use Christ as the reference point for decision-making: 48%
- Enroll them in religious education classes: 43%
- Encourage participation in youth groups: 43%
- Enroll them in Catholic schools: 43%
- Read the Bible and spiritual reading together: 39%
- Other: 39%
Are we equipped to fulfill the great commission to make disciples of all nations?

**Willingness to Share Faith (n=527)**
- 75% would proactively share their faith in some way
- 59%
- 16%
- 20%

**Q14**
- Welcome the opportunity: 57%
- Be happy to share, but not debate: 62%
- Be willing to share, but only if asked: 49%
- Do not share, do not know enough about faith: 29%
- Do not share, faith is private: 18%
- Avoid the conversation: 5%
- None of the above: 1%

**How Would Someone Know You Are a Christian? (n=1,516)**
- Be kind, charitable, respectful, and forgiving to all: 71%
- Mention attending church in conversation: 62%
- Serve those in need: 49%
- Talk about God in my life: 57%
- Discuss words of Pope Francis or from Church: 18%
- Share faith through social media: 5%
- Other: 1%
- None of the above: 1%

**Q15**
- (Multiple selections possible)

**With Whom Do You Talk About Faith? (n=1,414)**
- Adult family members: 80%
- Friends: 78%
- My children: 47%
- Co-workers, neighbors: 42%
- Strangers: 26%
- No one: 3%

**Q16**
- (Multiple selections possible)

**Greatest Obstacles to Sharing Faith? (n=731)**
- Don’t want to push beliefs: 38%
- Not encouraged by society: 30%
- Others not interested: 29%
- No good opportunities: 21%
- Not knowledgeable enough: 18%
- Afraid to offend, made fun of: 8%
- Other: 12%
- Not interested: 6%

**Q17**
- (Multiple selections possible)

**What Is Evangelization? (n=1,115)**
- Bearing witness through way I live my life: 67%
- Talking about God and Jesus: 64%
- Sharing faith story: 62%
- Trying to convert others: 21%
- Something preachers do on TV, street corners: 7%
- Other: 2%

**Q18**
- (Multiple selections possible)
Do we personally have the qualities of mind, heart, and spirit to take up this task?

FREQUENCY OF CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES (of those who participate) Q23

RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (n=507) and SPIRITUAL GROWTH (n=505) Q21, Q22

RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (n=507) and SPIRITUAL GROWTH (n=505)

FAITH ACTIVITIES (n=1,494) Q23

FREQUENCY OF CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES (of those who participate) Q23

REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING MASS AT MAIN PARISH (n=1,497) Q27

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

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
Parish-Life Demographics

SELF-IDENTIFICATION (n=732)

- Parishioner: 60%
- Regular attendee: 28%
- Visitor: 12%
- Ministry Volunteer: 4%
- Parish Leadership: 4%
- Deacon: 28%
- Parish Staff Member: 6%

(multiple selections possible)

REGISTERED? (n=535) and FOR HOW LONG? (n=521)

- 86% are not registered or don’t know
- 14% Registered
- 11% Not Registered
- 16% Don’t Know

TRAVEL TIME TO PARISH (n=536) and ATTENDANCE (n=535)

- 62% travel less than 20 minutes
- 38% travel more than 20 minutes
- <10 minutes: 33%
- 10-20 minutes: 29%
- >20 minutes: 29%

- 74% attend Mass at least once a week
- 66% Daily
- 16% Once a week or more
- 8% 2-3 times a month
- 7% Once a month
- 8% Several times a year
- 8% Seldom or Never

Are our parishes ready to respond to the challenges of the mission in our times? (Part I)

ARE VOCATIONS PROMOTED? (n=498)

- Yes: 61%
- No: 10%
- Don’t Know: 29%

MULTI-CULTURAL PARISH? (n=482) and if so, INTEGRATED? (n=194)

- Yes: 48%
- No: 39%
- Uncertain: 12%

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=507) & WOULD RECOMMEND? (n=510)  Q29, Q30

- Absolutely! 40%
- Yes 16%
- To some degree 2%
- No 16%
- Not at all 4%

- Very Likely 29%
- Likely 6%
- Undecided 1%
- Unlikely 6%
- Very Unlikely 2%

Q31, Q32, Q33

PARISH INSIGHTS (4 or 5 on 5-point scale)

- My spiritual needs are being met here (n=503) 78%
- I feel like I am a valued member of this parish (n=504) 78%
- Encouraged in spiritual growth by someone in the parish (n=503) 78%

WHERE COULD THE PARISH GIVE THE MOST SUPPORT? (n=1,365)  Q35

WHERE COULD THE PARISH GIVE THE MOST SUPPORT? (n=1,365)  Q35

1. Spiritual guidance and care
2. Grief and loss
3. Aging and care for the elderly
4. Sickness and long-term health issues
5. Parenting and care for the family
6. Marital issues
7. Depression or mental illness
8. Education needs
9. Separation/Divorce
10. LGBT support for individuals and families
11. Addiction (substance abuse, gambling, pornography)
12. Unemployment
13. Lack of housing/food
14. Access to healthcare
15. Care for immigrant families
16. Legal assistance
17. Domestic violence
18. Immigration assistance
19. Prisoner re-entry
20. Other

(multiple selections possible)

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

IMPORTANCE  SATISFACTION

Christ-centered parish 72% 63% 9.2%
Engaging homilies 70% 50% 20.6%
Feeling of warmth and welcome 66% 58% 8.4%
Holy, reverent worship experience 57% 48% 9.1%
Service-oriented parish 58% 57% 1.0%
Joy and excitement in parishioners 71% 59% 11.9%
Dynamic, lively worship experience 61% 50% 11.1%
Inspiring adult faith formation 53% 39% 13.7%
Engaging children’s ministry 53% 35% 18.5%
Outstanding music 53% 40% 12.7%
Welcomes immigrant families 66% 56% 9.6%
Fun social gatherings 41% 55% -14.4%
Beautiful architecture and grounds 44% 43% 0.2%
What decisions need to be made so we can marshal the resources the Lord has given us?

**TIME AND TALENT CONTRIBUTIONS (n=480)**

- 25% are seeking to contribute but are not currently
- 53% I regularly contribute
- 14% I would like to but don’t know how
- 9% I would like to but I am too busy
- 9% I don’t contribute
- 11% I don’t feel like my contributions are welcome or appreciated
- 3% Other

**PERCEPTIONS OF GOD’S GIFTS**

- I have thought about the gifts God has given me and how they might be used (n=486)
  - 15% Strongly Disagree
  - 42% Disagree
  - 42% Neither
  - 42% Agree
  - 42% Strongly Agree

- I consider the time and talent I contribute to be a form of ministry (n=472)
  - 16% Strongly Disagree
  - 39% Disagree
  - 43% Neither
  - 43% Agree
  - 43% Strongly Agree

**REASONS FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (n=785)**

- 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=496)**

- 6% Do not know
- 17% Poor
- 40% Fair
- 31% Good
- 6% Excellent

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

- **Worship Space (n=606)**
  - Size: 94% Just Right, 14% Too Big, 18% Too Small, 18% Do not know
  - Condition: 52% Excellent, 77% Adequate, 43% Needs Attention, 9% Do not know

- **Fellowship Space (n=606)**
  - Size: 52% Just Right, 73% Too Big, 23% Too Small, 18% Do not know
  - Condition: 43% Excellent, 77% Adequate, 24% Needs Attention, 9% Do not know

- **Outdoor Areas (n=606)**
  - Size: 52% Just Right, 77% Too Big, 23% Too Small, 18% Do not know
  - Condition: 30% Excellent, 77% Adequate, 43% Needs Attention, 9% Do not know

- **Parking (n=606)**
  - Size: 31% Just Right, 21% Too Big, 18% Too Small, 18% Do not know
  - Condition: 55% Excellent, 63% Adequate, 31% Needs Attention, 19% Do not know
**Harbor West Region**

**Baltimore, MD**

**How can we reach out more dynamically to those who have left or are searching?**

**REASONS WHY YOU THINK PEOPLE LEAVE THE CHURCH (n=1,260) Q19**

- Disagree with Church teachings on specific... 46%
- Not getting enough out of Mass/not being... 47%
- Gradual loss of interest 32%
- Dissatisfied with atmosphere in church 29%
- Clergy sex-abuse issue 19%
- Spiritual needs not being met 41%
- Not feeling welcomed 20%
- No longer believe 10%
- Other 12%

(multiple selections possible)

**HOW TO HELP RECONNECT PEOPLE WITH THE FAITH? (n=1,900) Q20**

- Pray for them 75%
- Be open to their questions about the Church and its... 50%
- Let them know they are missed and always welcome 60%
- Share why you remain a committed Catholic 39%
- Listen to their pains and concerns and accompany them in... 42%
- Offer a personal invitation to attend Mass with you 47%
- Invite them to parish social events 35%
- Introduce them to your parish friends and/or pastor 26%
- Other 5%

(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=1,492) Q43**

- Service and outreach ministries 45%
- Evangelization 47%
- Youth ministry 42%
- Young adult ministry 40%
- Adult faith formation 36%
- Religious education 38%
- Sacramental preparation 27%
- Parish and/or pastoral staff 19%
- Music ministry 18%
- Other 3%
- Do not know 13%

(multiple selections possible)
**Youth Survey**

**ETHNICITY (n=49) and GENDER (n=49)**

- **White**: 19%
- **Black**: 74%
- **Hispanic**: 0%
- **Asian or Pacific Islander**: 2%
- **Native American**: 2%
- **Other**: 2%
- **Prefer not to answer**: 4%

- **Male**: 55%
- **Female**: 45%

(multiple selections possible)

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME (n=52)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Options</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Other&quot;</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(multiple selections possible)

**HOW DO YOU LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH? (n=96)**

- **In a Catholic school**: 35%
- **In the home**: 71%
- **In a religious education program**: 57%
- **Youth Ministry program**: 24%
- **Other**: 6%
- **None of the above**: <1%

**WHICH FAITH ACTIVITIES DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN? (n=198)**

1. Attend Catholic school/religious education classes
2. Attend Mass regularly
3. Talk to God
4. Prepare for sacraments
5. Pray with my family
6. Participate in service projects
7. Make decisions based on my faith and religious beliefs
8. Read the Bible or other religious writings
9. Attend youth groups
10. Other

**DIRECTLY TALKING ABOUT FAITH (n=45)**

- **91%** would share their faith in some way
- **11%** would share in a different way
- **9%** would not share

"If you were in a situation where speaking about God, Jesus Christ, or your personal faith seemed appropriate, you would..."
Youth Survey

Harbor West Region
Baltimore, MD

REFLECTION AND NOTES

MASS ATTENDANCE (n=49)

- 57% are not attending Mass weekly
- 41% once a week or more
- 6% 2-3 times a month
- 10% once a month
- 43% several times a year
- 10% seldom or never

REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING MASS (n=90)

- 39% sports or other activities
- 39% if my family doesn’t come
- 33% working or in school
- 24% lack of transportation
- 24% health problems or disability
- 15% don’t feel I need to come to church every week
- 15% church is not that meaningful to me
- 10% don’t feel like I belong
- 9% other

HOW DOES YOUR PARISH INSPIRE YOU?

- Does this parish inspire you to follow Jesus?
  - Absolutely! 22%
  - Yes 35%
  - Sort of 41%
  - No 2%
  - Not at all 4%

- Would you tell your friends to come to this parish?
  - Absolutely! 13%
  - Yes 20%
  - Sort of 37%
  - Not sure 7%
  - No 26%

- Do you feel welcome and valued in this parish?
  - Yes 32%
  - Sort of 59%
  - Not sure 6%
  - No 3%