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.
Harford Region
Harford County, MD

Family Demographics

**MARITAL STATUS (n=3,441)**

- Married: 91%
- Widow: 6%
- Divorced: 8%
- Single: 1%
- Unmarried, living together: 75%

**CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD? (n=3,417)**

- 74% No children under 18 in household
- 26% Have children under 18 in household

**HOW DO YOUR CHILDREN RECEIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION? (n=1,292)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Within Parish</th>
<th>Outside of Parish</th>
<th>Other formal programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish-based (through 8th grade)</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In home</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic school</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Youth Ministry (Middle or High)</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other religious ed. (through 8th grade)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GREATEST CHALLENGES PASSING FAITH TO CHILDREN (n=1,026)**

- Swimming against the tide in a society that does not value faith: 56%
- Children are not interested enough: 13%
- I do not feel prepared or knowledgeable enough about the faith: 10%
- No good opportunities to bring up faith matters: 6%
- I am not interested enough: 1%
- Other: 11%
- None of the above: 24%

**FAITH ACTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN (n=4,780)**

1. Attend Mass regularly: 91%
2. Point out the many ways in which we are blessed: 76%
3. Prepare them for sacraments: 74%
4. Pray together as a family (bedtime, mealtime, etc.): 71%
5. Teach prayers, hymns: 54%
6. Use Christ as the reference point for decision-making: 55%
7. Enroll them in religious education classes: 50%
8. Encourage participation in youth groups: 38%
9. Enroll them in Catholic schools: 34%
10. Read the Bible and spiritual reading together: 23%
11. Other: 5%
Are we equipped to fulfill the great commission to make disciples of all nations?

**WILLINGNESS TO SHARE FAITH (n=3,374)**

- 71% would proactively share their faith in some way
- 23% 45%

**HOW WOULD SOMEONE KNOW YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN? (n=10,030)**

- 84% Be kind, charitable, respectful, and forgiving to all
- 70% Mention attending church in conversation
- 46% Serve those in need
- 45% Talk about God in my life
- 29% Discuss words of Pope Francis or from Church
- 18% Share faith through social media
- 6% Other
- 1% None of the above

**WITH WHOM DO YOU TALK ABOUT FAITH? (n=8,722)**

- 79% Adult family members
- 69% Friends
- 61% My children
- 38% Co-workers, neighbors
- 11% Strangers
- 3% No one

**GREATEST OBSTACLES TO SHARING FAITH? (n=5,658)**

- 40% Don’t want to push beliefs
- 36% Not encouraged by society
- 31% Others not interested
- 25% No good opportunities
- 22% Not knowledgeable enough
- 12% Afraid to offend, made fun of
- 6% Other
- 6% Not interested

**WHAT IS EVANGELIZATION? (n=7,013)**

- 64% Bearing witness through way I live my life
- 59% Talking about God and Jesus
- 51% Sharing faith story
- 24% Trying to convert others
- 14% Something preachers do on TV, street corners
- 3% Other
Do we personally have the qualities of mind, heart, and spirit to take up this task?

REFLECTION AND NOTES

RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (n=3,226) and SPIRITUAL GROWTH (n=3,255) Q21, Q22

FAITH ACTIVITIES (n=9,126) Q23

FREQUENCY OF CATHOLIC ACTIVITIES (of those who participate) Q23

REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING MASS AT MAIN PARISH (n=7,861) Q27
Parish-Life Demographics

**SELF-IDENTIFICATION (n=4,528)**
- Parishioner: 88%
- Regular attendee: 9%
- Visitor: 15%
- Ministry Volunteer: 1%
- Parish Leadership: 0.6%
- Deacon: 0%
- Parish Staff Member: 0%

(multiple selections possible)

**REGISTERED? (n=3,445) and FOR HOW LONG? (n=3,381)**
- 91% Registered
- 7% Not Registered
- 7% Don't Know

**TRAVEL TIME TO PARISH (n=3,436) and ATTENDANCE (n=3,435)**
- 45% travel less than 20 minutes
- 89% attend Mass at least once a week

**ARE VOCATIONS PROMOTED? (n=3,169)**
- No: 7%
- Don't Know: 24%
- Yes: 69%

**MULTI-CULTURAL PARISH? (n=3,047) and if so, INTEGRATED? (n=966)**
- Yes: 38%
- Somewhat: 21%
- Uncertain: 17%
- No: 11%

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=3,171) & WOULD RECOMMEND? (n=3,203)**

- **Q29, Q30**
  - 78% are firmly inspired by their parish
  - 37% are to some degree inspired
  - 20% are not at all inspired
  - 5% are not inspired at all

- **Q29**
  - Absolutely!
  - Yes
  - To some degree
  - No
  - Not at all

- **Q30**
  - Very Likely
  - Likely
  - Undecided
  - Unlikely
  - Very Unlikely

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

- **Q31**
  - My spiritual needs are being met here
  - (n=3,184)
  - 83%

- **Q32**
  - I feel like I am a valued member of this parish
  - (n=3,181)
  - 71%

- **Q33**
  - Encouraged in spiritual growth by someone in the parish
  - (n=3,150)
  - 65%

**WHERE COULD THE PARISH GIVE THE MOST SUPPORT? (n=7,443)**

- **Q35**
  - (multiple selections possible)

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

**IMPORTANCE**

**SATISFACTION**

- Christ-centered parish
  - Imp. 65%
  - Sat. 57%
  - Diff. 7.6%

- Engaging homilies
  - Imp. 61%
  - Sat. 46%
  - Diff. 14.9%

- Feeling of warmth and welcome
  - Imp. 56%
  - Sat. 49%
  - Diff. 6.8%

- Holy, reverent worship experience
  - Imp. 45%
  - Sat. 37%
  - Diff. 8.0%

- Service-oriented parish
  - Imp. 41%
  - Sat. 43%
  - Diff. -2.1%

- Joy and excitement in parishioners
  - Imp. 60%
  - Sat. 49%
  - Diff. 11.7%

- Dynamic, lively worship experience
  - Imp. 49%
  - Sat. 36%
  - Diff. 13.0%

- Inspiring adult faith formation
  - Imp. 40%
  - Sat. 34%
  - Diff. 6.5%

- Engaging children’s ministry
  - Imp. 41%
  - Sat. 32%
  - Diff. 9.7%

- Outstanding music
  - Imp. 34%
  - Sat. 29%
  - Diff. 4.9%

- Welcomes immigrant families
  - Imp. 52%
  - Sat. 48%
  - Diff. 3.9%

- Fun social gatherings
  - Imp. 20%
  - Sat. 44%
  - Diff. -24.3%

- Beautiful architecture and grounds
  - Imp. 30%
  - Sat. 35%
  - Diff. -5.1%
What decisions need to be made so we can marshal the resources the Lord has given us?

**TIME AND TALENT CONTRIBUTIONS (n=2,939)**

- I regularly contribute: 20%
- I would like to but don’t know how: 22%
- I would like to but I am too busy: 46%
- I don’t contribute: 30%
- I don’t feel like my contributions are welcome or appreciated: 2%
- Other: 9%

**PERCEPTIONS OF GOD’S GIFTS**

- I have thought about the gifts God has given me and how they might be used (n=2,994): 46%
- I consider the time and talent I contribute to be a form of ministry (n=2,833): 45%

**REASONS FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (n=4,958)**

1. My contributions support the ongoing presence and work of this particular parish: 65%
2. My contributions support the core mission of the Church to spread the Gospel, form disciples, and serve others: 48%
3. It is my obligation as a Catholic to support the Church: 45%
4. I cannot make financial contributions at this time, but would like to: 4%
5. I do not make financial contributions: 2%

**RATING OF PARISH’S FINANCIAL HEALTH (n=3,034)**

- Excellent: 67%
- Good: 29%
- Fair: 4%
- Poor: 2%
- Do not know: 2%

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

- **Worship Space (n=4,366):**
  - Just Right: 92%
  - Too Big: 31%
  - Too Small: 3%
  - Do not know: 25%

- **Fellowship Space (n=4,366):**
  - Adequate: 76%
  - Needs Attention: 14%
  - Do not know: 10%

- **Outdoor Areas (n=4,366):**
  - Excellent: 87%
  - Needs Attention: 42%
  - Adequate: 41%
  - Do not know: 10%

- **Parking (n=4,366):**
  - Excellent: 47%
  - Needs Attention: 26%
  - Adequate: 41%
  - Do not know: 36%
How can we reach out more dynamically to those who have left or are searching?

**REASONS WHY YOU THINK PEOPLE LEAVE THE CHURCH (n=8,027)**

- Disagree with Church teachings on specific...: 55%
- Not getting enough out of Mass/not being...: 41%
- Gradual loss of interest: 40%
- Dissatisfied with atmosphere in church: 26%
- Clergy sex-abuse issue: 24%
- Spiritual needs not being met: 24%
- Not feeling welcomed: 15%
- No longer believe: 15%
- Other: 13%

(multiple selections possible)

**HOW TO HELP RECONNECT PEOPLE WITH THE FAITH? (n=11,038)**

- Pray for them: 78%
- Be open to their questions about the Church and its...: 50%
- Let them know they are missed and always welcome: 46%
- Share why you remain a committed Catholic: 43%
- Listen to their pains and concerns and accompany them in...: 38%
- Offer a personal invitation to attend Mass with you: 38%
- Invite them to parish social events: 28%
- Introduce them to your parish friends and/or pastor: 18%
- Other: 6%

(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=8,029)**

- 1 - Service and outreach ministries: 50%
- 2 - Evangelization: 37%
- 3 - Youth ministry: 37%
- 4 - Young adult ministry: 35%
- 5 - Adult faith formation: 29%
- 6 - Religious education: 29%
- 7 - Sacramental preparation: 19%
- 8 - Parish and/or pastoral staff: 16%
- 9 - Music ministry: 15%
- 10 - Other: 3%
- 11 - Do not know: 20%

(multiple selections possible)
### ETHNICITY (n=902) and GENDER (n=827)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to answer</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME (n=954)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Options</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Other”</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### HOW DO YOU LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH? (n=1,388)

- In a Catholic school: 43% (Outside of Parish: 6%)
- In the home: 41% (Within Parish: 52%)
- In a religious education program: 18% (Other: 6%)
- Youth Ministry program: 52% (None of the above: <1%)
- Other: 6% (None of the above: <1%)

#### WHICH FAITH ACTIVITIES DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN? (n=3,714)

1. Attend Catholic school/religious education classes: 64%
2. Attend Mass regularly: 62%
3. Talk to God: 61%
4. Prepare for sacraments: 55%
5. Pray with my family: 51%
6. Participate in service projects: 40%
7. Make decisions based on my faith and religious beliefs: 33%
8. Read the Bible or other religious writings: 28%
9. Attend youth groups: 20%
10. Attend Catholic school/religious education classes: 10%

#### DIRECTLY TALKING ABOUT FAITH (n=836)

- 93% would share their faith in some way.
- 74% would not have a problem doing it.
- 19% would do it, but only if I was with friends from church.
- 7% would not do it at all.

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

**MASS ATTENDANCE (n=862)**

- Once a week or more: 50%
- 2-3 times a month: 24%
- Once a month: 9%
- Several times a year: 13%
- Seldom or Never: 5%

- Mass weekly: 50%

**REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING MASS (n=1,963)**

1. Sports or other activities: 71%
2. If my family doesn’t come: 42%
3. Working or in school: 41%
4. Lack of transportation: 24%
5. Health problems or disability: 21%
6. Don’t feel I need to come to church every week: 17%
7. Church is not that meaningful to me: 8%
8. Don’t feel like I belong: 6%
9. Other: 7%

**HOW DOES YOUR PARISH INSPIRE YOU?**

- Does this parish inspire you to follow Jesus?
  - Absolutely!: 16%
  - Yes: 26%
  - Sort of: 7%
  - No: 46%
  - Not at all: 36%

- Would you tell your friends to come to this parish?
  - Absolutely!: 30%
  - Yes: 26%
  - Sort of: 7%
  - No: 35%

- Do you feel welcome and valued in this parish?
  - Yes: 79%
  - Sort of: 17%