West Baltimore County Region
Baltimore County, MD

REFLECTION AND NOTES

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.
West Baltimore County Region
Baltimore County, MD

Family Demographics

Q12
MARITAL STATUS (n=1,170)

- Married: 82%
- Widowed: 17%
- Divorced: 1%
- Single: 6%
- Unmarried, living together: 64%

Q13
CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD? (n=1,162)

- 76% No children under 18 in household
- 24% Have children under 18 in household

HOW DO YOUR CHILDREN RECEIVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION? (n=382)

- Parish-based (through 8th grade): 41%
- In home: 37%
- Catholic school: 30%
- Catholic Youth Ministry (Middle or High): 11%
- Other religious ed. (through 8th grade): 9%
- Other formal programs: 10%
- None of the above: 9%

GREATEST CHALLENGES PASSING FAITH TO CHILDREN (n=313)

- Swimming against the tide in a society that does not value faith: 53%
- Children are not interested enough: 14%
- I do not feel prepared or knowledgeable enough about the faith: 9%
- No good opportunities to bring up faith matters: 7%
- I am not interested enough: 3%
- Other: 11%
- None of the above: 25%

FAITH ACTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN (n=1,441)

- Attend Mass regularly: 83%
- Point out the many ways in which we are blessed: 69%
- Prepare them for sacraments: 69%
- Pray together as a family (bedtime, mealtime, etc.): 57%
- Teach prayers, hymns: 56%
- Use Christ as the reference point for decision-making: 32%
- Enroll them in religious education classes: 34%
- Encourage participation in youth groups: 39%
- Enroll them in Catholic schools: 35%
- Read the Bible and spiritual reading together: 7%
- Other: 11%
West Baltimore County Region

Baltimore County, MD

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

**Q14**
WILLINGNESS TO SHARE FAITH (n=1,151)

- 74% would proactively share their faith in some way
- 24% would welcome the opportunity
- 21% would be happy to share, but not debate
- 49% would be willing to share, but only if asked
- 64% would do not share, do not know enough about faith
- 30% would not share, faith is private
- 17% would avoid the conversation
- 7% would none of the above

**Q15**
HOW WOULD SOMEONE KNOW YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN? (n=3,371)

- Be kind, charitable, respectful, and forgiving to all: 79%
- Mention attending church in conversation: 64%
- Serve those in need: 45%
- Talk about God in my life: 49%
- Discuss words of Pope France or from Church: 30%
- Share faith through social media: 17%
- Other: 7%
- None of the above: 12%

**Q16**
WITH WHOM DO YOU TALK ABOUT FAITH? (n=2,976)

- Adult family members: 77%
- Friends: 71%
- My children: 56%
- Co-workers, neighbors: 40%
- Strangers: 15%
- No one: 4%

**Q17**
GREATEST OBSTACLES TO SHARING FAITH? (n=1,801)

- Don’t want to push beliefs: 35%
- Not encouraged by society: 33%
- Others not interested: 30%
- No good opportunities: 26%
- Not knowledgeable enough: 20%
- Afraid to offend, made fun of: 9%
- Other: 10%
- Not interested: 5%

**Q18**
WHAT IS EVANGELIZATION? (n=2,420)

- Bearing witness through way I live my life: 66%
- Talking about God and Jesus: 60%
- Sharing faith story: 52%
- Trying to convert others: 24%
- Something preachers do on TV, street corners: 12%
- Other: 3%

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

**RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (n=1,118) and SPIRITUAL GROWTH (n=1,110)**

- **Jesus at the center**
  - Relationship AND Practicing: 36%
  - Relationship OR Practicing: 48%
  - Neither: 9%

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

  - **Prayer** (n=973)
    - Daily: 85%
    - Weekly: 9%
    - Few times a Month: 4%

  - **Devotions** (n=592)
    - Daily: 19%
    - Weekly: 15%
    - Few times a Month: 17%

  - **Eucharistic Adoration** (n=443)
    - Daily: 19%
    - Weekly: 40%
    - Few times a Month: 9%

- **REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING MASS AT MAIN PARISH (n=2,881)**

  - 1 - Sports or other activities: 31%
  - 2 - Don’t feel I need to come to church every week: 22%
  - 3 - Working or in school: 20%
  - 4 - Also attend church elsewhere: 18%
  - 5 - Church is becoming less relevant in my life: 15%
  - 6 - Health problems or disability: 13%
  - 7 - Spiritual needs are not being met here: 11%
  - 8 - Divorce or marriage outside Church: 10%
  - 9 - Poor preaching: 6%
  - 10 - Parish is not welcoming: 4%
  - 11 - Priest is not welcoming: 3%
  - 12 - Lack of transportation: 2%
  - 13 - Lack of children’s ministry: 2%
  - 14 - Parish does not reflect my language/ethnic/cultural identity: 1%
  - 15 - No special needs ministry: 1%
  - 16 - Church not accessible: 1%
  - 17 - Other: 1%
West Baltimore County Region

Parish-Life Demographics

SELF-IDENTIFICATION (n=1,550)

- Parishioner: 85%
- Visitor: 13%
- Regular attendee: 10%

- Ministry Volunteer: 17%
- Parish Leadership: 23%
- Deacon: 13%
- Parish Staff Member: 10%

(multiple selections possible)

REGISTERED? (n=1,180) and FOR HOW LONG? (n=1,135)

- Registered: 87%
- Not Registered: 10%
- Don't Know: 3%

- 0-3 Years: 47%
- 4-9 Years: 23%
- 10-19 Years: 13%
- 20+ Years: 7%

TRAVEL TIME TO PARISH (n=1,174) and ATTENDANCE (n=1,176)

- Travel less than 20 minutes: 90%
- Travel 20-30 minutes: 7.5%
- Travel 30-45 minutes: 1.6%
- Travel 45+ minutes: 0.6%

- Once a week or more: 79%
- 2-3 times a month: 7%
- Daily: 10%
- Several times a year: 10%
- Once a month: 8%
- Seldom or Never: 0%

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

ARE VOCATIONS PROMOTED? (n=1,094)

- Yes: 57%
- Don't Know: 32%
- No: 11%

MULTI-CULTURAL PARISH? (n=1,062) and if so, INTEGRATED? (n=546)

- Yes: 53%
- Somewhat: 21%
- Don't Know: 27%
- No: 8%

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=1,092) & WOULD RECOMMEND? (n=1,104)**

Q29, Q30

67% are firmly inspired by their parish

83% would recommend their parish

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

Q31, Q32, Q33

- My spiritual needs are being met here (n=1,102)
  - 75%

- I feel like I am a valued member of this parish (n=1,096)
  - 66%

- Encouraged in spiritual growth by someone in the parish (n=1,084)
  - 59%

**WHERE COULD THE PARISH GIVE THE MOST SUPPORT? (n=2,638)**

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

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

**TIME AND TALENT CONTRIBUTIONS (n=1,034)**

- **Q37**
  - **25%** are seeking to contribute but are not currently.

**PERCEPTIONS OF GOD’S GIFTS**

- **Q38, Q39**
  - I have thought about the gifts God has given me and how they might be used (n=1,042)
    - Strongly Disagree: 2%
    - Disagree: 4%
    - Neither: 48%
    - Agree: 48%
    - Strongly Agree: 63%

  - I consider the time and talent I contribute to be a form of ministry (n=986)
    - Strongly Disagree: 0%
    - Disagree: 10%
    - Neither: 20%
    - Agree: 20%
    - Strongly Agree: 50%

**REASONS FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (n=1,780)**

- **Q40**
  - 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=1,062)**

- **Q41**
  - 5% Do not know
  - 6% Poor
  - 34% Fair
  - 45% Good
  - 10% Excellent

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

- **Q42**
  - **Worship Space (n=1,397)**
    - Just Right: 41%
    - Too Big: 79%
    - Too Small: 14%
  - **Fellowship Space (n=1,397)**
    - Just Right: 55%
    - Too Big: 92%
    - Too Small: 9%
  - **Outdoor Areas (n=1,397)**
    - Excellent: 17%
    - Adequate: 50%
    - Needs Attention: 39%
  - **Parking (n=1,397)**
    - Excellent: 38%
    - Adequate: 48%
    - Needs Improvement: 12%
How can we reach out more dynamically to those who have left or are searching?

**REFLECTION AND NOTES**

**REASONS WHY YOU THINK PEOPLE LEAVE THE CHURCH (n=2,734)**

1. Disagree with Church teachings on specific... 51%
2. Not getting enough out of Mass/not being... 38%
3. Gradual loss of interest 39%
4. Dissatisfied with atmosphere in church 29%
5. Clergy sex-abuse issue 20%
6. Spiritual needs not being met 17%
7. Not feeling welcomed 17%
8. No longer believe 14%
9. Other 13%

(multiple selections possible)

**HOW TO HELP RECONNECT PEOPLE WITH THE FAITH? (n=3,809)**

1. Pray for them 81%
2. Be open to their questions about the Church and its... 49%
3. Let them know they are missed and always welcome 46%
4. Share why you remain a committed Catholic 45%
5. Listen to their pains and concerns and accompany them in... 40%
6. Offer a personal invitation to attend Mass with you 37%
7. Invite them to parish social events 26%
8. Introduce them to your parish friends and/or pastor 17%
9. 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=3,405)**

1. Service and outreach ministries 42%
2. Evangelization 41%
3. Youth ministry 44%
4. Young adult ministry 39%
5. Adult faith formation 36%
6. Religious education 42%
7. Sacramental preparation 31%
8. Parish and/or pastoral staff 28%
9. Music ministry 23%
10. Other 4%
11. Do not know 17%

(multiple selections possible)
Youth Survey

ETHNICITY (n=197) and GENDER (n=177)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>7%</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>

(multiple selections possible)

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME (n=217)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Options</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Other”</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(multiple selections possible)

HOW DO YOU LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH? (n=297)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In a Catholic school</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the home</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a religious education program</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry program</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(multiple selections possible)

WHICH FAITH ACTIVITIES DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN? (n=888)

1. Attend Catholic school/religious education classes (75%)
2. Attend Mass regularly (72%)
3. Talk to God (62%)
4. Prepare for sacraments (58%)
5. Pray with my family (62%)
6. Participate in service projects (40%)
7. Make decisions based on my faith and religious beliefs (34%)
8. Read the Bible or other religious writings (23%)
9. Attend youth groups (54%)
10. Other (4%)

(Directly talking about faith)

DIRECTLY TALKING ABOUT FAITH (n=181)

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

- Not have a problem doing it (92%)
- Do it, but only if I was with friends from church (76%)
- Not do it at all (8%)

West Baltimore County Region

Baltimore County, MD
West Baltimore County Region
Baltimore County, MD

Youth Survey

Mass Attendance (n=184)

- 41% are not attending Mass weekly
- 21% Once a week or more
- 9% 2-3 times a month
- 9% Once a month
- 9% Several times a year
- 2% Seldom or Never

Reasons for Not Attending Mass (n=384)

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

(multiple selections possible)

How Does Your Parish Inspire You?

Does this parish inspire you to follow Jesus?

- Absolutely! 19%
- Yes 36%
- Sort of 42%
- No Not at all

Would you tell your friends to come to this parish?

- Absolutely! 28%
- Yes 35%
- Sort of 28%
- No Not at all 7%

Do you feel welcome and valued in this parish?

- Yes 80%
- Sort of 18%
- Not sure 4%
- No 2%

(n=184)

(n=179)

(n=180)

(n=182)