

Parish Profile

Introductory Remarks

Social Analysis of parish, why necessary?

We all operate from a number of assumptions. We deal with other people who are operating from their assumptions about us, our politics, our education, our parish. One of the most surprising comments for me when I began this job were the statements made by Pastors or other parish leadership ie. “We don’t have any Spanish speaking people in our parish.” We don’t have enough room, so that is why you cannot have your program here.” “I just need someone part time, all they have to do is open the doors and make sure all the teachers show up.” My all time favorite, “We don’t need a DRE because most of ‘our’ children attend the parish school.” I had never heard of the Italian Federation, or Polish/Korean/Vietnamese School. I did not know the Seniors club was the largest organization in the parish or that the Pastor didn’t like Notre Dame. The questionnaire I am going to give you covers all sort of parish information. It is all information you need to identify areas that need to be considered and recognize the “sacred cows” and something udderly ridiculous.

Handout: Parish Profile Questionnaire
Begin to fill out profile with the information you know now.
Dialogue on Questionnaire

PARISH PROFILE

(For use by a parish Coordinator/DRE)

What do you know about the parish in which you work?

Use the following form to get an overview or profile of the parish context in which you minister.

I. STRUCTURE

A. STAFF

Pastor _____

Associate Pastor(s) _____

Pastoral Associate _____

Permanent Deacon(s) _____

Parish Administrator or manager _____

Adult Religious Ed. Coord. _____

Coordinator/DRE _____

Initiation Director _____

Liturgy Director _____

Principal of School _____

Youth Minister _____

Other Staff _____

B. ORGANIZATION

Does the parish staff meet regularly? _____ How often? _____

Does the parish have a mission statement? How was it formulated? _____

Who in the parish is aware of it? _____

Do staff members have job descriptions? _____

List the organizations, societies, groups and programs in the parish.

Is there a pastoral council? How does it function? Do you meet with them?

How are decisions reached which affect the parish's community life or its mission?

Did your parish participate in the archdiocesan planning process? _____

If so, is your parish working on the Synod proposals? _____

Is there a finance council as required by Canon law? _____

Do you understand the financial realities of your parish? _____ Is there a budget? _____

II. PROFILE OF PARISHIONERS

A. SIZE OF PARISH

Total number of families _____

Number of single-parent families _____

B. AGE OF PARISHIONERS

Under 18 _____% 18-35 _____% 36-50 _____%

51-65 _____% Over65 _____%

C. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Less than high school _____% High school _____%

College graduates _____%

D. ANNUAL INCOME

\$10,000 - \$20,000 _____% \$21,000 - \$30,000 _____%

\$31,000 - \$45,000 _____% \$46,000 - \$60,000 _____%

Over \$60,000 _____%

E. ETHNIC GROUPS

Black _____%

Pacific Islander _____%

Korean _____%

(Filipino)

Caucasian _____%

Hispanic/Latino _____%

Am. Indian _____%

Other _____%

III. CATECHETICAL PROGRAMS

A. PARISH PROGRAMS

1. Child-centered Programs:

Early Childhood

Is there an Early Childhood Program? _____

Number of children who attend _____

Printed materials used _____

When does the program meet? _____

Elementary/Junior High

Number of children who attend: _____ Elementary
_____ Junior High

Printed catechetical materials used:

Elementary _____

Junior High _____

Sacramental preparation _____

How many catechists teach in the programs? _____

How many catechists currently are certified? _____

What is the average class size? _____

Is there a need for classes offered in other languages? _____

How is this need met? _____

2. Youth Ministry
 Is there a program for high school aged youth? _____
 What different kinds of formats and activities are offered? _____
 What per cent of the youth of the parish participate? _____
 Do youth who attend Catholic high schools participate in the youth programs?
 If not, why not? _____
 Has a team been formed to prepare high school youth for Confirmation?

3. Adult Catechesis/Religious Education
 What adult religious education opportunities exist in your parish?

- What resources/budget has been allocated for Adult Religious Education?

- What is offered for young adults? _____

- Who plans adult religious education for the parish? _____

- What family perspective is brought into parish programs? _____

- What outreach/community service programs exist in the parish? _____

4. Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
 How is the Initiation Process conducted and celebrated in the parish (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)? Is there a team approach? How are team members trained? _____

- What materials are used within the catechumenate? _____

- How are unbaptized children of catechumenal age initiated? _____

- How are the newly initiated invited into parish programs? _____

B. PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Is there a parochial school in the parish? _____
If so, please complete the following section.
 How many students attend? _____ What percentage of the children of the parish does the school population represent? _____ %

Who is responsible for the catechetical program in the school? _____

What kind of formation/training is provided for religion teachers? _____

What religion texts are used? _____

How many non-Catholic children attend the school? _____

Do they attend the regular religion classes? _____

How are the parents and children evangelized? _____

C. COLLABORATION

Does the parish support life-long catechesis/learning by responding to developmental needs as well as offering inter-generational gatherings?

Do the parochial school and the other parish catechetical programs share in the use of school and/or parish facilities, utilities, equipment, etc.? _____

Do parochial school and other catechetical personnel meet to discuss ideas, problems and programs, and in general communicate with one another? _____

What structure does this communication take? Are there meetings on a regular basis? If so, how often? _____

Do they celebrate together? _____

Do they worship/pray together? _____

Is there a Catechetical (Religious Education) Board in the parish? _____

Is it a joint Board of school and parish personnel? How is membership determined?

In what ways do the priests of the parish involve themselves in catechetical programs? _____

How does your parish affirm the cultures present in the richness of their traditions?

D. SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

What form of pre-baptismal catechesis is offered for new parents?

How are parents assisted in developing their primary role as religious educators of their children? _____

Is there a program to help parents understand the goals of the catechetical program? What form does this program take? _____

