

TOGETHER IN FAITH PHASE TWO

External Data and Statistics Review

Begin with prayer (sample provided). Read aloud the life giving qualities of each parish, and the hopes and dreams for the future from the first meetings. Reflect on any comments or recommendations from the parish or vicariate council. Keeping these in mind, begin to study the following external data and statistics.

- 1 Look at the changes in housing types, housing tenure trends and foreclosure trends. What do these mean for the parishes in your planning group and vicariate? What parishes are facing the greatest housing challenges? What does this mean for the communities within the parish and vicariate boundaries?
- 2 How has job loss or growth affected each parish? How will the parishes address projected job loss or growth in the future?
- 3 Look at the population change charts for 2005, 2010, and the projection for 2035. Where will there be the greatest population growth or loss in your planning group and vicariate? What does this mean for the parishes, the communities within their boundaries, and nearby communities? For outreach and direct service/emergency needs? Services for other segments of the community?
- 4 What percentage of the population was 65 and over in 2005, and how is that projected to change by 2035 in each parish? What types of services or ministries do the parishes provide for seniors? Is this currently an area of collaboration among parishes and how, or could it be in the future?
- 5 What is the percentage change in school age population for 2005 – 2010, and the projections for 2035. Has this change been reflected in religious education classes? Youth Ministry activities? How have the parishes addressed this change? What plans can be made for the future? What does this mean for the general life of the parishes?
- 6 If there is a school within the planning group, how do these external data affect plans for the school(s)? Does the school planning affect the parish planning efforts and how? Where do Catholic children currently attend school within the planning group area (refer to maps)?

Internal Catholic Data Review

Begin with prayer (sample provided). Read aloud the life giving qualities of each parish, and the hopes and dreams for the future from the first meetings. Reflect on any comments or recommendations from the parish or vicariate council. Keeping these in mind, begin to study the following Internal Data and Statistics.

- 1 Review the Parish Evaluation Inventory (PEI) from 2004-2005 for each parish. How have the parishes changed over the past five years? Have the original PEI plans describing the sacramental, strategic, and sustainable nature identified by each parish been implemented?
- 2 Which parishes have experienced an increase or decrease in Catholic registered households and what do these trends indicate? How does this compare to general population changes?
- 3 Do the sacramental trends reflect a pattern similar to what the general population has experienced over the past 15 years? Have the number of baptisms, weddings, confirmations, first communions and funerals in each parish increased or decreased proportionately? What does this mean for the general life of the parishes?
- 4 What percentage of parishioners live outside of their parish boundaries and why? Compared to other parishes in the planning group and vicariate? What does this mean for ministerial activities other than weekly Mass?
- 5 What Catholic properties are for sale or lease in your planning group and vicariate? Could they be used in a different way? What do you know about the condition of the buildings that are still in use in your planning groups and vicariate? Could they be used in a different way?
- 6 Compare the total seating capacity for the planning group, and the number of registered households in 2010, by parish and by vicariate. What are the implications, in light of increasing or decreasing population, and available housing in the area?
- 7 Review the Mass schedules of the parishes – what are the implications in light of the population trends and seating capacity? In light of the age of priests assigned to your planning group and vicariate?
- 8 If there is school within the planning group, how do these internal data affect plans for the school(s)? Do the parishes have development or fundraising plans in place to support the school(s)? How do the parishes assist in marketing and recruiting? What kind of Catholic school model works for your planning group and the surrounding areas, as well the families/potential families in the area?
- 9 Review the Loan Deposit Program debt and payables debt. Are the parishes in the planning group able to meet current expenses? Are they attempting to pay down any debt? What is the debt, in relation to savings, and what are the implications of this? Could your parish assist another in paying down debt or outstanding payables?
- 10 Compare the total regular income (offertory plus Christmas collection) to the total of all other income for each of the parishes in the planning group. Is the parish reliant on special income (rental income, diocesan grants) to meet regular expenses? In light of expenses, debt, payables and savings, what are the financial implications for each parish, for the planning group and the vicariate?



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