

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Parish Vitality Survey Form

Name	Phone		
Address	E-Mail		
City	State	Zip	Position
Parish	Date		

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Parish Vitality Survey is to assess the perceived pastoral needs of the parish and by identifying the strengths and weaknesses using the following indicators of vitality of parish life:

1. Parish as a Community

This area is concerned with how well the parish encourages participating in the liturgical, catechetical and pastoral ministries of the parish. It also relates to evangelization efforts.

2. Liturgy and Worship

This area is concerned with the liturgy, sacraments and devotional life of the parish.

3. Service

This area is concerned with the effectiveness of care and outreach efforts of the parish for the poor and needy of the parish and local community.

4. Education and Catechesis

This area is concerned with all efforts that ensure ongoing faith formation provided to parishioners of all ages.

5. Administration

This area is concerned with the management and financial decision-making process of the parish.

Please return the completed form within ten (10) days to:

Reverend Monsignor Michael W. Fisher
Office of Ministerial Leadership
P.O. Box 29260
Washington, DC 20017

Fax: 301-853-7668

Email: mfisher@adw.org

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Parish Vitality Survey Form

Please write in the space below.

1. Parish as a Community

This indicator relates to a parish's efforts to build a strong sense of community by actively involving all members of the parish in parish life and by reaching out to Catholics who are alienated or inactive.

RESPONSE SCALE
1= Practically none; to a very small degree
2= Not very; not very much
3= Moderately
4= Very, to a high degree
5= Extremely, to a very high degree

Scale #	The degree to which:
	1. The parish has an organized welcome program for new members.
	2. Parishioners with disabilities are included in every aspect of parish life and ministry.
	3. Persons of all races are welcome to participate fully in the life and ministry of the parish.
	4. All approved liturgical roles are open to both men and women.
	5. Parishioners understand that they have a responsibility to invite others to the Lord and the believing community.
	6. The parish has a way to train people how to reach out to others and invite others to the Lord and the believing community.
	7. The parish regularly sponsors formal evangelization programs such as "The Light Is On For You.", "Come Home for Christmas/Easter."
	8. The parish consistently identifies the talents and interests of parishioners.
	9. Parish organizations regularly invite new people to participate in their activities.
	10. Parishioners are encouraged to use their talents for the good of the parish.
	11. The parish actively involves seniors, adolescents and young adults in parish activities.
	12. The parish has an accurate, up-to-date census of the total parish.
	Overall Average Score

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Is the parish a welcoming community to visitors and new parishioners?

Are their efforts to encourage parishioners to be involved in the various ministries and programs of the parish?

Is proper training and direction provided?

Do parishioners contribute to the stewardship of the parish through time, talent, and treasure?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Special Concerns:

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Please write in the space below.

2. Liturgy and Worship

This indicator relates to liturgy, sacraments and devotional life of the parish.

RESPONSE SCALE
1= Practically none; to a very small degree
2= Not very; not very much
3= Moderately
4= Very, to a high degree
5= Extremely, to a very high degree

Scale #	The degree to which:
	1. The congregation fully, actively, and consciously participates in the liturgy.
	2. Congregational singing is an important part of every weekend Mass.
	3. Homilies are relevant to the needs and cares of the people.
	4. Special feast days are appropriately celebrated throughout the year.
	5. Various forms of expression for Catholic spirituality are provided for parishioners, e.g., prayer groups, novenas, days of recollection, missions, faith sharing opportunities, etc.
	6. Shut-ins and the ill are visited regularly with the Eucharist and Anointing of the Sick.
	7. The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA/RCIC) are being implemented and involves the entire parish community.
	8. Options for face-to-face confession, communal penance services with individual confessions, and for use of scripture during all confessions are available to parishioners.
	9. The celebration of baptism, weddings, and funerals involve the parish community.
	10. The weekend Mass schedule promotes quality liturgy, builds a sense of unity and community, and reflects the size and diversity of the parish community.
	11. Weekday Masses are scheduled according to the needs of people and time constraints of priests.
	12. The parish sponsors programs for vocation awareness on a regular basis.
	Overall Average Score

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Does the congregation fully, actively, and consciously participate in the Sunday Mass?

What is the quality of the homily, music, and environment at the Sunday Mass?

What types of liturgies are celebrated (traditional, contemporary, gospel, etc.)

Are special feasts and devotions celebrated throughout the year?

Has the Rite of Christian Initiation been implemented and is the entire community involved?

How well are the sick and the shut-ins cared for and visited?

Are there convenient times scheduled for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Penance)?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Special Concerns:

Please write in the space below.

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3. Service

This indicator is concerned with the effectiveness of care and outreach efforts of the parish for the poor and needy of the parish and local community.

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1= Practically none; to a very small degree
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Scale #	The degree to which:
	1. Someone (e.g. a parish social concerns coordinator) or some group (e.g. St. Vincent de Paul Society) assists parishioners in meeting their material needs.
	2. Parishioners respond when invited to volunteer for various parish service programs.
	3. The parish is sensitive to the needs of families when it schedules ministries, programs and events.
	4. Awareness of Catholic Social teaching is raised through homilies, formal discussion of encyclicals and church documents.
	5. The parish opens its facilities to community groups for meetings (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous).
	6. The parish sponsors or supports local food banks, blood drives, etc.
	7. The parish reaches out to those who are in institutions (e.g., nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, etc.) within the parish's boundaries.
	8. Parishioners respond generously to Archdiocesan and national appeals for aid to the poor and needy.
	9. Parishioners participate in peace and justice activities, pro-life activities, voter registration drives, letter writing campaigns, parish twinning, missions, etc.
	10. The parish calls attention to important local, state, and federal legislation in light of Catholic Social teaching.
	Overall Average Score

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Does the parish have a social services minister or St. Vincent de Paul Society?

Is there support for local food banks, blood drives, or homeless shelters?

Are Catholic Social Teachings taught and promoted through homilies and religious formation programs?

Is there an outreach program for vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate or religious life?

Is the parish supportive of pro-life initiatives?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Special Concerns:

Please write in the space below.

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4. Education and Catechesis

This indicator is concerned with all efforts that ensure ongoing faith formation provided to parishioners of all ages.

RESPONSE SCALE
1= Practically none; to a very small degree
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3= Moderately
4= Very, to a high degree
5= Extremely, to a very high degree

Scale #	The degree to which:
	1. The parish sponsors its own school or is a sponsor of a regional school.
	2. The parish provides a qualified Director, Coordinator or Minister of Religious Education.
	3. The parish offers viable programs of religious instruction for families, children and youth.
	4. The parish provides for and supports initial and on-going training for its catechists.
	5. The parish encourages and supports parents as the primary religious educators of their children.
	6. The parish has a viable youth ministry program for adolescents and young adults.
	7. The parish offers a variety of opportunities for adult learning experiences (e.g., Bible Study, speakers, magazines, books, etc.).
	8. The parish supports its lay minister / volunteers with regular and ongoing in-service programs.
	9. Parishioners share in baptismal and marriage preparation.
	10. The parish arranges for sacramental preparation and catechesis for parishioners with disabilities.
	11. The parish has programs that strengthen marriage and family.
	Overall Average Score

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Does the parish sponsor its own or a regional school?

Does the parish have a Director, Coordinator, or Minister of Religious Education?

Is there initial and ongoing training for catechists?

Does the parish provide ongoing faith formation for parishioners of all ages?

Is there a baptism and marriage preparation program and do parishioners assist in it?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Special Concerns:

Please write in the space below.

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5. Administration

This indicator is concerned with the management and financial decision-making process of the parish.

RESPONSE SCALE
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3= Moderately
4= Very, to a high degree
5= Extremely, to a very high degree

Scale #	The degree to which:
	1. The most knowledgeable people are consulted in making decisions in the parish.
	2. People at various levels in the parish participate in planning and decision-making activities.
	3. The parish is strong in long-range planning and parishioners understand the goals of the parish.
	4. The parish meets its ordinary expenses in a timely manner.
	5. The parish maintains its plants and facilities in good condition.
	6. Parish facilities are adequate for the present and future needs of the parish, its people and its programs.
	7. The parish has active Pastoral and Finance councils which regularly advises the pastor.
	8. Parishioners help care for and maintain parish grounds and facilities.
	9. Parishioners are given opportunities to share in leadership responsibilities by being empowered to use their skills and experiences for the good of the parish.
	10. The parish has sufficient qualified personnel to run its programs and meet the legitimate needs of the parishioners.
	Overall Average Score

In your consideration of the strengths and weaknesses in this area you might reflect upon the following:

Does this parish present a balanced budget that provides a just wage for parish staff and reflects the priorities of the parish?

Does the parish encourage "sacrificial giving" or "tithing"?

Are the parish facilities kept clean and in good condition?

Does the parish have an effective pastoral and finance council that represents the diversity of the parish?

Do parishioners participate and support local fund raising activities?

Does the parish leadership communicate the needs and financial condition of the parish to the parishioners?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Special Concerns: