

PASTORAL VIABILITY OF PARISH LIFE - DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

Our bishop and priests have identified some key indicators of parish vitality. Below are a series of statements related to these vitality indicators. Please indicate how descriptive these statements are of your parish using a scale from 1 to 7 (where 1 indicates “Not at All Descriptive” and where 7 indicates “Very Descriptive” Please mark the DK column if you do not know, or write N/A if you believe the item does not apply to your parish.)

LIVING STEWARDSHIP:

Our relationship with the gifts God gives us truly affects our relationships with each other and our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christian stewardship is a lifestyle that reflects who we are: disciples or followers of Jesus Christ. Stewardship leads us to an attitude of gratitude through which we learn to pray, serve and share as a way of life.

		Not at all Descriptive				Very Descriptive			DK
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	Our parish has a vibrant air of hospitality.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2	Active involvement by the majority of parishioners is the norm.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3	Our parish has a regular, well attended, opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4	Our parishioners understand and act on their “need” to give.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

WORD:

EDUCATION AND CATECHESIS-EVANGILIZATION: A Catholic parish nourishes the faith life of its members through programs of education and catechesis for all its members. This ongoing formation in faith can occur in a variety of ways, but it includes programs for all ages, from the very young, those in formative years, and adults.

		Not at all Descriptive				Very Descriptive			DK
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5	A quality K-12 Religious Education program is provided for all children.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6	Our parish emphasizes the building and renewal of adult faith in all efforts.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
7	There is an active Youth Ministry program available to members of the parish.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	Parishioners experience spiritual growth through involvement in small faith-sharing communities and/or parish based pastoral movements like “Why Catholic?”	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
9	Our parish supports a Catholic School.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
10	Our parish reaches out to those who do not participate in church activities.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
11	Our parish plays an active and visible role in the life of the community in which it is located.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
12	Our parish reaches out to diverse populations.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

SACRAMENT:

Through its sacramental life, the parish community experiences the saving presence of the Risen Lord in its midst. It is through the sacraments that we are initiated into the life of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, we experience healing and forgiveness, and we are sent forth to be ambassadors for Christ in the world in which we live. Eucharist is at the heart and center of the parish community. As we gather to hear God's Word and celebrate the divine offering of our lives to God and of his Son to us, we not only receive Christ but we become the Body of Christ.

		Not at all Descriptive			Very Descriptive			DK
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	Our parishioners participate fully and obviously in the celebration of the liturgy.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14	The liturgies at our parish are prayerful, reverent and spiritually moving.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	The music at our liturgies inspires prayer and worship of God.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16	The preaching at our parish connects scripture to daily life and inspires Christian living.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17	Our parishioners are spiritually prepared to live the gospel in their daily lives.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	Our parish provides a variety of prayer experiences and popular devotions.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

SERVICE:

MINISTRY, CHARITY AND JUSTICE: The parish community ensures the right of the baptized to a full and active participation in the life of the Church. This is most conveniently accomplished by offering opportunities to all parishioners to minister and build the community of faith.

		Not at all Descriptive			Very Descriptive			DK
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	Our parish attends to the special needs and situations of families today (e.g. single parents, separated and divorced, inter-church marriages, elderly, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20	Our parish attends to those with special needs such as the sick, homebound, poor, bereaved and imprisoned.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21	Our parishioners live the Catholic principles of social justice.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22	Our parish offers a wide variety of opportunities for parishioners to become involved in parish life and ministry.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23	Youth are actively involved in the life of our parish.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	Adults are actively involved in the life of our parish.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25	Events and/or programs at our parish are well attended.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26	Our parish has a clear sense of mission and purpose.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27	Our parish income is adequate to meet expenses.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	Our parish regularly meets its goal for the annual God's Share Appeal.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29	Our parish invests in the ongoing training and formation of the pastor and pastoral staff.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30	Our parish facilities are well maintained.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

What other activities describe the efforts of your parish to carry out the mission to Be Ambassadors for Christ, Living Stewardship in Word, Sacrament, and Service?
