

Parish Reflection Questions

As a parish delegation, reflect of the following questions about your parish “landscape.”

Be prayerful and honest, staying mindful of the possibilities and realistic about resources and abilities. Be encouraged and let the Holy Spirit guide you through this process as parish leaders.

See the parish statistics sheets to help you reflect on the first 4 questions.

1. What are the trends of the number of registered parishioners over the past 15 years? Discuss and write down why this is.

2. What are the trends in Mass attendance? For example, how have the ages of those who attend Mass changed? How do the number of parishioners compare to Mass attendance? Who is *not* in the pews? Why not?

3. What are the trends in the sacramental numbers? (Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals) If these numbers are not in sync with the number of parishioners, list a few reasons why this may be.

4. What are the trends in faith formation/religious education program numbers? What does it say about families and children?

5. Who is our local “mission field”? Who is on the margins in our community? What groups might see themselves on the outside, looking in?

6. What are our parish’s strengths? What ministries or aspects of our parish are bringing forth spiritual fruit? How can those areas be strengthened in order to continue to grow in spiritual fruitfulness?

Before you respond to the next two questions, discuss your answers to the questions on the “Personal Reflection Questions” worksheet.

7. What are our challenges in our parish and community? What are areas that need to be addressed or improved?

8. What are sources of hope? What are some ideas that would make our parish more spiritually fruitful and vibrant?
