**Parish Life Assessment Forms**

Hello,

Congratulations for your interest in conducting a detailed assessment of your parish life. The following handouts will assist your pastoral council to carry out an in-depth reflection on spiritual practices and progress achieved in your Catholic community, including:

* Worship
* Community
* Evangelization
* Service
* Word
* Leadership
* Stewardship

In each of the assessment forms, we include the most common and relevant items to assess the respective element. However, please feel free to include additional reflection topics you consider appropriate for your parish. For further reference, we recommend the book *Revisioning the Pastoral Council*, from Jenny & Gubish.

We kindly invite you to take your time and consider each element in a spiritual, community-based manner. Therefore we suggest do not rush-to-complete, but use-to-discern.

Finally, you may find some other useful materials for your pastoral planning, including an Excel file to process your results, prayers, these assessment forms in Spanish, and a Step-by-step Pastoral Planning Guide.

Download them at no cost from our website [www.archgh.org/pastoralplan/eventresources](http://www.archgh.org/pastoralplan/eventresources).

We would love hearing from you! We are here to help and have many resources at your disposal. If you have further questions or specific needs, please contact Jim Barrette, Director of Pastoral and Educational Ministries in the Archdiocese Galveston-Houston, at jbarrette@archgh.org or call us at 713-652-4446.

**Worship**

Please SCORE the following statements with the number that best reflects your opinion

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Always |
| Nobody | A few of us | Some of us | Most of us | Everyone |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Statement | Score |
| 1 | The Sunday Eucharist is a priority in the life of the parish. |  |
| 2 | We celebrate the Eucharist with the full and active participation of the parishioners. |  |
| 3 | Individuals responsible for every aspect of liturgical celebrations have the proper training and motivation. |  |
| 4 | Parishioners serve in many liturgical roles at liturgy. |  |
| 5 | Liturgical ministers are well trained and effective in their ministries. |  |
| 6 | Preaching relates the Scriptures to the real life experience of the people. |  |
| 7 | The worship space accommodates the rites of the Church in a dignified manner. |  |
| 8 | Liturgical art and environment are marked by noble simplicity. |  |
| 9 | Worship aids are contemporary and in good condition. |  |
| 10 | Music quality and selection enables the assembly to participate in sung prayer. |  |
| 11 | All sacraments are regularly celebrated and are genuine expressions of Life. |  |
| 12 | We celebrate Liturgy of the Word with Children for young parish members. |  |
| 13 | We encourage devotional prayer, and it does not interfere with other celebrations. |  |
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| 15 |  |  |

**Community**

Please SCORE the following statements with the number that best reflects your opinion

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Always |
| Nobody | A few of us | Some of us | Most of us | Everyone |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Statement | Score |
| 1 | We recognize ourselves as a Christian community, beyond parish social or civic nature. |  |
| 2 | Communication among leaders and parishioners is adequate and constant. |  |
| 3 | There is an excellent spirit of collaboration among persons, groups, and organizations. |  |
| 4 | We understand the demographic composition, needs, and aspirations of the people. |  |
| 5 | Organizations, groups, and activities are broadly inclusive. |  |
| 6 | Activities are in harmony and respond to the needs of the members and the parish. |  |
| 7 | Activities respond to the spiritual aspirations of all the souls in the parish. |  |
| 8 | Organizations provide prayer, information, education, entertainment, and hospitality activities. |  |
| 9 | Councils and organizations review their purpose and effectiveness annually. |  |
| 10 | We provide for those in need or in the risk of being excluded. |  |
| 11 | The prayer activity is outwardly directed, never entirely focused on our own life. |  |
| 12 | We collaborate with neighboring parishes. |  |
| 13 | We promote ecumenical relationships and activities. |  |
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**Evangelization**

Please SCORE the following statements with the number that best reflects your opinion

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Always |
| Nobody | A few of us | Some of us | Most of us | Everyone |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Statement | Score |
| 1 | We welcome newcomers to the parish in specific ways. |  |
| 2 | We make efforts to reach out to the alienated, the inactive and the unchurched. |  |
| 3 | We provide opportunities to gather and share faith as it relates to our everyday life. |  |
| 4 | We have a plan for regular personal visits with parishioners. |  |
| 5 | We have a plan for regular personal visits with other people living in the area. |  |
| 6 | Parish renewals, evenings of prayer and retreats enliven and deepen the faith of the people. |  |
| 7 | We are known for our invitation, hospitality, compassion, and inclusion attitudes to everyone. |  |
| 8 | We influence the values and decisions of the larger community, through prophetic action, works of justice and outreach. |  |
| 9 | Our constant joy related to Good News of Jesus Christ is evident in homilies, worship, activities and outreach. |  |
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**Service**

Please SCORE the following statements with the number that best reflects your opinion

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Always |
| Nobody | A few of us | Some of us | Most of us | Everyone |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Statement | Score |
| 1 | We are aware that the human community in the parish territory extends beyond its members. |  |
| 2 | The parish makes every effort to accommodate persons with disabilities. |  |
| 3 | Organizations systematically address basic human needs such as food, housing, health, and employment. |  |
| 4 | We have ongoing programs to minister the sick, bereaved and homebound. |  |
| 5 | We participate in local, national and international helping actions. |  |
| 6 | We have implemented an instruction program to deal with current social issues. |  |
| 7 | Education, governance and employment initiatives integrate Catholic social teaching. |  |
| 8 | We encourage participation and involvement in voting, policy-making, and other citizenship duties. |  |
| 9 | Racial harmony, peacemaking, respect for life at all stages, and practice of mercy are study and action priority areas. |  |
| 10 | We seek opportunities for ecumenical activities in the local area. |  |
| 11 | The coordination of social ministry has adequate education and expertise. |  |
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**Word**

Please SCORE the following statements with the number that best reflects your opinion

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
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| Nobody | A few of us | Some of us | Most of us | Everyone |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Statement | Score |
| 1 | The catechetical leader has relevant knowledge, ability, and experience. |  |
| 2 | The administration of religious education efforts is effective. |  |
| 3 | Skilled and knowledgeable persons staff all aspects of formation efforts. |  |
| 4 | We allocate adequate funds, resources, staff and space for catechetical work. |  |
| 5 | We plan, execute and evaluate religious formation for adults, youth, and children. |  |
| 6 | Strengthening marriages and nurturing family life are priorities. |  |
| 7 | Parents receive assistance to understand their roles to their children in the formation of Christian values. |  |
| 8 | Catechism methods encompass the whole development of the believer. |  |
| 9 | Catechism leads the believer to translate faith commitment into action. |  |
| 10 | Sacramental preparation is parish-based and intergenerational. |  |
| 11 | Catholic schools attended by parishioners provide strong educational programs. |  |
| 12 | Catholic schools attended by parishioners foster Christian community and witness. |  |
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**Leadership**

Please SCORE the following statements with the number that best reflects your opinion

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Always |
| Nobody | A few of us | Some of us | Most of us | Everyone |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Statement | Score |
| 1 | The pastor, parish staff, and pastoral council share leadership responsibility, according to their respective roles. |  |
| 2 | The pastoral council supports the pastor in assessing, evaluating and responding to spiritual needs in the community. |  |
| 3 | Decisions are made by consensus, through processes of discernment, study, and discussion. |  |
| 4 | We provide ongoing formation and training to parish leaders. |  |
| 5 | Formation of parish leaders incorporates diocesan, national and universal Church teachings. |  |
| 6 | Parish leaders delegate to competent persons for implementing pastoral activities. |  |
| 7 | Parish personnel is recruited and remunerated according to professional standards and job descriptions. |  |
| 8 | The pastor evaluates parish personnel periodically. |  |
| 9 | Parish councils operate frequently and efficiently to fulfill their purposes. |  |
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**Stewardship**

Please SCORE the following statements with the number that best reflects your opinion

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Frequently | Always |
| Nobody | A few of us | Some of us | Most of us | Everyone |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| # | Statement | Score |
| 1 | We recognize people´s giftedness and gratuitous nature of God's blessings. |  |
| 2 | Formation helps parishioners to embrace their baptismal responsibility to steward their gifts. |  |
| 3 | Parishioners demonstrate their Christian stewardship by their support of community needs |  |
| 4 | We have managed to have appropriate resources to accomplish the mission and objectives of the parish. |  |
| 5 | We make efforts to discover parishioners talents and invite to use them in service. |  |
| 6 | We provide adequate training, encouragement, and supervision to those who offer their gifts in service. |  |
| 7 | We are not excessively dependent on extraordinary fundraisers to support parish budget. |  |
| 8 | We keep up payments on parish's debt if there is one. |  |
| 9 | The facilities are appropriately maintained and adequate for parish needs. |  |
| 10 | We share a portion of parish income with the poor. |  |
| 11 | We utilize available resources with precision and moderation, avoiding waste. |  |
| 12 | We manage the financial budget with transparency and accountability. |  |
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| 14 |  |  |
| 15 |  |  |