

COMMUNITY

Questions for Consideration

1. What programs, ministries, activities and resources does the parish or campus ministry offer to help enliven and deepen the faith of its members?
 - How often do these take place? (weekly, monthly, annually)
 - How many people regularly attend these events?
 - What parish committees coordinate and oversee these events and how many parishioners are involved in the planning?

2. How does the parish or campus ministry actively invite all its members to take part in the sacramental life of the Church?
 - Is preparation for the sacraments a shared ministry?
 - What programs are used for the various sacraments?
 - How many people are involved in conducting these programs?
 - Is sacramental preparation seen as an opportunity to invite individuals to be a more active part of the parish community?
 - Does the parish strive to provide opportunities for all the sacraments to be celebrated in a community context?

3. How does the parish or campus ministry share its ministries and resources with other neighboring parishes?
 - What interaction is there with neighboring parishes?
 - Is there an awareness of the needs of neighboring parishes and of the area?
 - If part of a cluster of parishes, how are resources allocated and managed?
 - What services are shared?
 - What cooperative efforts exist?
 - How many people are involved in the cooperative efforts?

4. Through what programs does this parish or campus ministry express its commitment of outreach to the poor, the sick and the homebound, the youth and young adults, the elderly? How many parishioners are involved in these programs? Who coordinates and oversees them? How successful has the faith community been in implementing these programs?

5. To what extent does the membership of this parish or campus ministry honestly reflect the ethnic and cultural make-up of the wider community in which it is situated? Are the traditions and practices of these cultures adequately and appropriately integrated into faith activities and sacramental preparation and particularly into liturgy and worship?

6. How are parishioners who are college students or young adults encouraged to take an active role in the various ministries of the parish? How are their talents and skills properly recognized and adequately employed for the benefit of the whole community?
7. How are former members who return to the parish and members who participate less frequently welcomed by the pastoral leaders and the parishioners? Are they invited to become more active in the community?
8. What are some of the concrete challenges to families living in the area and what is this parish doing to help families meet the challenges?
9. To what extent does the parish or campus ministry actively seek out, extend an invitation to and consciously welcome into the community immigrants and people from different cultures and inactive Catholics and the unchurched?
10. In what ways does the parish or campus ministry actively engage in dialogue, joint ministry and fellowship with other Christian denominations and with congregations from other faith traditions?
11. Is the parish and its leadership well-known to the local community and recognized for its participation in various local initiatives? Are these leaders representative of the parish community in terms of age, race and culture?
12. What methods does the parish or campus ministry use to communicate with all its members?
 - Is the office staff sufficient, well-trained, hospitable and accessible? How is their effectiveness gauged? Where necessary, are there a sufficient number of staff members who are bilingual or multilingual?
 - Is the bulletin well prepared? Does it contain valuable and timely information?
 - Does the parish have a newsletter in either print or electronic form?
 - Is there a parish website?
 - Is there a telephone tree or some similar means of rapid communication with all members?
 - Is email used as a method of mass communication?
 - In the integrated or multicultural parishes, are all forms of communication as bilingual or multilingual as possible?

13. How does the faith community use media and personal contacts to identify inactive and alienated Catholics? Are settings provided in which people might feel comfortable enough to express any concerns which might have kept them from participation in the church? Does the campus or parish address these concerns to the fullest extent allowed within the teaching of our church? How do we warmly welcome into our parishes those who take steps to return?

14. What are some of the gifts present in the parish or campus ministry that the members would offer to other local churches or ecclesial communities? What are the gifts in other churches or ecclesial communities which would enrich the parish's Catholic life?

15. How does the parish or campus community recognize and support absent members of the community, for example, those who are sick or serving in the armed forces or are incarcerated in local jails and prisons?

16. How might the staff of the diocesan offices assist your parish to develop programs and processes important for full implementation of the COMMUNITY dimension for *We Walk by Faith*?