

What Is Your Current Reality?

We often discuss *current reality* with parishes and schools because it is the starting point for planning and necessary for any successful organization. Taking time to assess your *current reality* will enable you to develop a plan with measurable goals in achieving your mission efficiently and effectively. Here are some questions to consider when evaluating your situation or *current reality*:

- ◇ How many active households do you have?
- ◇ When was the last time the parishioner database was updated?
- ◇ Where do your parishioners live?
- ◇ Is your church a neighborhood parish or a destination parish?
- ◇ Are mass counts increasing or decreasing?
- ◇ Is the average age of your parishioner rising or dropping?
- ◇ What percentage of households are supporting your parish financially?
- ◇ What percentage of parishioners are volunteers?
- ◇ Are the number of financial givers increasing or decreasing, and what are the givers' ages?
- ◇ Is memorial income growing, while envelope and plate income shrinks?
- ◇ Are weekly contributions increasing or decreasing?
- ◇ How many of your parishioners are aged 0-4, 5-18, and 19-35 years?
- ◇ What are the enrollment trends in your school?
- ◇ What percentage of children in your parish attend either the school or the faith formation program?
- ◇ What is your parish's investment in your school, or faith formation, or other ministries?
- ◇ What is your per child tuition collected vs. cost to educate?
- ◇ What have been the trends of various sacraments for the past several years?
- ◇ How many young adults are attending your parish?
- ◇ How many young adults have become a "none?"
- ◇ How many parishioners have left to attend a different denomination?
- ◇ What is the impact of the sexual abuse crisis?