

## ***Pastoral Care Parish Self-Study***

*“The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially those who are poor and afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well”.* (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Article 1)

The Catholic Church is a caring community united together in our belief in Jesus and his teachings. In response to our baptismal call, we follow the example of Jesus by being present to one another through care and service. Pastoral care is basic to the very nature of the Catholic Church. (*Pastoral Care: A Parish Planning Workbook*, Joseph M. Champlin, National Pastoral Life Center)

In general, when we define pastoral care it is a ministry of caring that provides parish outreach and support to all those in need, especially the homebound, persons with disabilities, elderly, imprisoned, bereaved and lonely.

This assessment is designed for both individuals and parish leadership to assess your parish in the area of pastoral care. This assessment tool is appropriate for use by the pastoral council, parish staff, and the social concerns committee. Please consider using this assessment to engage in a discussion that both affirms and celebrates your parish’s strengths as well as the areas that need further attention.

### ***Parish Demographic Information***

**Location:** Rural \_\_\_\_\_ Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Distance may determine the level of pastoral care available

#### **Make up of congregation:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Under 5    \_\_\_\_\_ 5-14    \_\_\_\_\_ 15-19    \_\_\_\_\_ 20-34  
\_\_\_\_\_ 35-54    \_\_\_\_\_ 55-65    \_\_\_\_\_ over 65

#### **Special interest groups within your community:**

Ethnic groups \_\_\_\_\_

Prisons/jails \_\_\_\_\_

Nursing Homes \_\_\_\_\_

Hospitals \_\_\_\_\_

CBRF's \_\_\_\_\_

CBRF's for the Developmentally Delayed \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Linked with another parish?**      **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_      **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**Shared Staff?**      **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_      **No** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Pastoral Staff</b>							
<b>Position</b>	<b>Full Time Paid</b>	<b>Part Time Paid Hrs/Week</b>	<b>Hrs/Wk spent in Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Visitation time/week Nursing homes, CBRF's &amp; hospital</b>	<b>Visitation time/week w/Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Visitation time/week Developmentally Delayed CBRF</b>	<b>Visitation time/week Prison/jail</b>
Priest/Parish Director							
Retired Priest							
Deacon							
Religious							
Pastoral Associate							
Pastoral Minister							
Parish Nurse							
Care Ministers, BeFriends, Stephen Ministers							
Pastoral Ministry Volunteers							
Others:							



***Current Pastoral Ministries – Continued***

Pastoral Care Ministries	Currently have? Yes or No	# Per year, if applicable	Needs to be enhanced	Want to get started	Shared ministry with another parish	Person Who Coordinates the Ministry		
						Priest/Parish Director	Paid Pastoral Minister	Volunteer
Weddings per year								
Mentor programs for the engaged, i.e., FOCCUS couples, a parish marriage preparation team								
Programs for newly married								
Nursing Home Visitation								
Presence to the dying								
Addresses End of Life Issues								
Involvement in community issues in a manner that promotes justice and peace								
Service to the poor & needy								
Social Concerns Committee								
St. Vincent de Paul								
Stewardship Committee								
Others:								

***Pastoral Care Ministry Program Description***

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pastoral Care Ministries</b> Please give a brief description of the program</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>How does the parish provide this ministry?</b> Briefly explain details of the ministry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>After Initial Pastoral Contact</b> Describe the follow-up, the duration of follow-up, who coordinates or is responsible, etc.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Active outreach to welcome new members</b></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Baptism Preparation Program</b></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bereavement</b></p>		

<p align="center"><b>Pastoral Care Ministries</b> Please give a brief description of the program</p>	<p align="center"><b>How does the parish provide this ministry?</b> (Briefly explain details of the ministry)</p>	<p align="center"><b>After initial pastoral contact</b> Describe the follow-up, who coordinates/is Responsible, the duration of follow-up, etc.)</p>
<p align="center"><b>Funeral Planning</b></p>		
<p align="center"><b>Homebound/CBRF Visitation</b></p>		
<p align="center"><b>Hospital/Nursing Home Visitation</b></p>		

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<p align="center"><b>Visitation with the sick and the dying</b></p>		
<p align="center"><b>Marriage Preparation Program</b></p>		

**Please answer each of the questions.**

	<u><b>YES</b></u>	<u><b>NO</b></u>	<u><b>UNSURE</b></u>
1. Our parish has a mission statement that reflects service, charity and pastoral care?	_____	_____	_____
2. Our parish continually works on improving the pastoral care ministry?	_____	_____	_____
3. Our parish is a warm and nourishing place where everyone is welcomed.	_____	_____	_____
4. Our parish is a warm and nourishing place where everyone is cared for.	_____	_____	_____
5. Our parish has an active social concerns committee with a liaison or regular communication with the pastoral council.	_____	_____	_____
6. Our parish has a communication system that informs the entire parish about the pastoral care activities, concerns and needs in our parish and our community.	_____	_____	_____
7. Our parish designates a proportion of its staff and financial resources for pastoral concerns.	_____	_____	_____
8. Our parish has an annual report that reflects pastoral care needs and social concerns needs with a vision of where we are going.	_____	_____	_____
9. There is an annual, organized approach to inviting parish members to volunteer to use their gifts in generous service to others in our parish and our community.	_____	_____	_____
10. New parish members are invited to volunteer to use their gifts in generous service to others in our parish and our community.	_____	_____	_____
11. Youth and young adults are invited to volunteer to use their gifts in service to others in our parish and our community.	_____	_____	_____
12. Our parish has a budget that supports those who want training and continuing education in the area of pastoral care.	_____	_____	_____
13. In some way, our parish formally recognizes and celebrates all those who volunteer their service and their time.	_____	_____	_____
14. Homilies and intercessions regularly incorporate a pastoral message of care and concern for others, challenging parish members to live in service to others.	_____	_____	_____
15. Our parish has a regular system for communication between the pastor/parish director and the pastoral care team to coordinate pastoral care ministries and prevent overlaps in ministry.	_____	_____	_____



**YES**      **NO**      **UNSURE**

16. Our parish is open to collaborating with other parishes and community agencies regarding sharing resources and staff.

\_\_\_\_\_

17. Our parish has peer ministry programs, i.e. Care Ministry, BeFriends, or Stephen Ministers.

\_\_\_\_\_

How many are trained each year in peer ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people do they visit in a typical year? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the program and services of your parish peer ministry:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*After reviewing your above responses, summarize and prioritize the information gathered through this assessment.*

**Identify your parish's primary strengths in pastoral care.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**As you look to the future, can you identify two or three key areas you would like to see improved or expanded in your parish's pastoral care ministry?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_