

PARISH SURVEY

“Making All Things New” is a pastoral initiative of the Archdiocese of New York for strategic parish planning. The pre-planning stage of this program involves consultation with priests, religious, and laity concerning the planning process and the criteria that will be used to support and guide that process. This means that parish planning affects every parish in the Archdiocese of New York.

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus says: “See! I make all things new!” (Rev. 21:5). In the spirit of Jesus’ words, this pastoral initiative seeks to energize, enrich and spiritually renew our parishes, both now and in the future. These words assure us that while things may change, Jesus never changes in His love for us.

To help in this pre-planning process, please indicate your response to the statements below by circling your answer:

1. I am aware of the current situation facing the Archdiocese, particularly with such issues as the decline in Church attendance, shortage of priests, decreased financial stability, etc. For me this is a serious issue.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

2. I recognize the reality that some parishes will have to be closed or merged if the mission of the Archdiocese is to remain viable.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

3. To determine parish viability, I believe it is important to look at parish weekday and Sunday Mass attendance.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

4. To determine parish viability, I believe it is important to look at parish sacramentals, i.e., how many baptisms, communions, marriages, funerals, etc.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

5. To determine parish viability, I believe it is important to look at parish programs, i.e., religious education, RCIA, outreach to the poor, etc.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

6. To determine parish viability, you should look at significant changes in the Catholic population of parishes.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

7. To determine parish viability, you should examine if parish revenue is sufficient to support parish ministries, Archdiocesan programs, and ordinary operating expenses.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

8. For parish viability, you should also examine if parish revenue is sufficient to support its priests and members of its pastoral staff.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

9. To determine parish viability, I feel it is important to know if a parish has a consistent operating deficit or owes money for unpaid bills to outside vendors or to the Archdiocese.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

10. I think the following additional areas should be looked at to assess parish viability:

11. I believe that if a parish has to close or merge, it is important to investigate whether the pastoral ministries of that parish can be served by a neighboring parish.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

12. If a parish has to close or merge, I believe the parish council should be consulted.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

13. If a parish has to close or merge, I believe the finance council should be consulted.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

14. If a parish has to close or merge, I think the “*Making All Things New*” committee should assist the pastor to create and develop a response on behalf of the parish.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

15. An Archdiocesan advisory panel should review the responses of parishes that could potentially close or merge and provide their opinion to the Archbishop.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

16. I think there are too many parishes in our area. Some could be closed or merged without presenting a great inconvenience to people.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

17. I have confidence that, in the end, by God’s grace and our good efforts, the Church will not only “get through” but continue to grow.

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree