

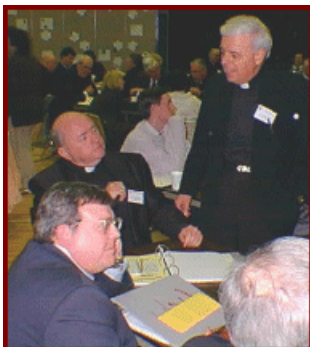


InFormation

News for Pastoral Planners and Those Implementing the Plan

The InFormation is an electronic news letter feel free to print as many copies as you need.

<http://www.archphila.org/pastplan/INDEX/InFormationindex.html>



Clergy and Laity Together: Building Parishes

In the last two issues we have been looking at parish renewal and the part a pastoral planning process plays in the renewal of parishes (see issue 9-4 The Messy Work of Parish Renewal). <http://tinyurl.com/vgd6s9j>

In the last issue's article (Year for Priests Today & Tomorrow) we started to share the predictions on the number of clergy that will be available for parish service into the foreseeable future and recognized that there will be a "gap" between the number of clergy required to staff the current number of parishes in the current way and the number of clergy who are expected to be available by 2025, 15 years from now.

According to projections of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, by 2020 there will be over 200,000 additional people in the archdiocese. Assuming that the share of the total population that is Catholic is maintained, the total number of Catholics will be up over 70,000 or 6% by 2020 as a result of growth primarily in Bucks, Chester and Montgomery counties

While Catholics are up over 70,000 or 6%, diocesan priests in parish ministry can be expected to be down 96 or 26% (from the current number of 363) based on AON consulting actuarial study of 2005. But this will not be experienced the same way throughout the archdiocese. In some areas the population is growing while in others it is not. It is important to look at the number of Diocesan priests and the population change by geographic areas or parish cluster.

If no changes are made, between 2020 and 2025, the number of diocesan priests projected to be available for parish ministry dips below the number of parishes (245) currently staffed by diocesan priests. By 2025, we expect to have 227 priests in parish ministry. Before then, and this has already started, the clergy staff of larger parishes will need to be cut to levels that might require major adjustments to carry out the work of the parish.

There are several Strategies to address the "gap" between the number of priests that are projected to be needed in order to maintain the staffing levels and the number of priests projected to be available based on the latest actuarial study. These can be grouped into 4 general areas.

1. obtain more active priests from within or outside the Archdiocese. Perhaps the most important work for all catholic people is to pray for and promote priestly vocations. Vocations are formed first in the families, communities and parishes in which young men grow up. Encouraging vocations is everyone's job. There are roles for family, friends, priests, parishes, schools and seminaries.

Other ways to increase the number of priests include extending the active service of priests by asking priests to stay on in a senior priest status or other ways after their retirement or to recruit priests from other countries. But obtaining priests from other parts of the world is an issue of justice. North America has the best priest to parishioner ratio in the world: 1:1229 compared with South America at 1:7094. Priests from other countries may also introduce issues of culture and language that need to be addressed.

Continued on Page 5

Silver scholars enjoy stress-free learning as auditors

WHAT'S HAPPENING

• Older Americans are heading back to school — not to earn degrees, but for the sheer joy of learning. Auditing college courses keeps aging minds nimble without the stress of exams and grades.

• As Boomers hit their retirement years, taking classes for fun instead of credits is on the rise. About 60% of U.S. colleges now offer auditing opportunities for silver scholars, who range from their early 60s to well into their 80s (*Philadelphia Inquirer* 11.11.09).

Seniors aren't the only ones who benefit from intergenerational interaction. "[Auditors] ask great questions," says Daniel Richter, a history professor at Penn. "And besides, they laugh at my jokes." *Continued on Page 5*



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The InFormation Newsletter is published by:

The Office of Research & Planning for the use of Parish Pastoral Planners and those who implement those plans.

Suggestions for future articles should be directed to Ron Lill editor

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Phone: 1-215-587-3545

These suggestions are encouraged and welcomed

Prayer for a Meeting

Technology and the future



Prayer Before A Meeting

Lord, Source of all our strength,
support each of us
in this meeting that is now beginning.
Grant us the courage to be open to each other
and to not be fearful of the new and different.
Strengthen us with a willingness to risk
for the sake of Your Kingdom.

It is our wish, Lord and God,
that the true business of this meeting
be our spiritual transformation
and not simply the accomplishment
of tasks and projects.

We ask this of You as we now begin,
in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen+

Prayer After A Meeting

Before we adjourn this meeting,
let us pause for silent prayer
in gratitude to our Lord for the Divine Presence
at the center of our gathering.

(Silent prayer)

We lift up into Your Divine Heart
the material concerns that we have discussed.
With Your Holy Assistance,
may we carry forward the work we have agreed upon.

Remember the needs of our parish community,
especially that we, all of us, grow daily
in the image of Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

May You accompany us homeward
and bless our departure with Your abiding peace.

Amen+

Prayer for the Servants of God, Edward Hays
Published by Forest of Peace Publishing, Inc.

Technology stakeholders' and critics' expectations of social, political and economic change by 2020, fielded by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project :

» **Google won't make us stupid:** 76% of these experts agreed with the statement, "By 2020, people's use of the Internet has enhanced human intelligence; as people are allowed unprecedented access to more information they become smarter and make better choices. Nicholas Carr was wrong: Google does not make us stupid."

» **Reading, writing, and the rendering of knowledge will be improved:** 65% agreed with the statement "by 2020 it will be clear that the Internet has enhanced and improved reading, writing and the rendering of knowledge." Still, 32% of the respondents expressed concerns that by 2020 "it will be clear that the Internet has diminished and endangered reading, writing and the rendering of knowledge."

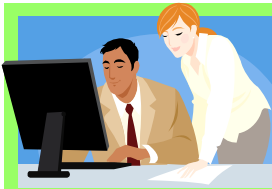
» **Innovation will continue to catch us by surprise:** 80% of the experts agreed that the "hot gadgets and applications that will capture the imaginations of users in 2020 will often come 'out of the blue.'"

F.Y.I.

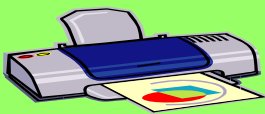
Has Your Sunday Collection Dropped?

A \$25-a-month phone bill or \$300 annually was once the main telecommunications expense. By 2004, the average American spent \$770.95 annually on services like cable TV, Internet and videogames, according to Census data. By 2008, it ballooned to \$903. By the end of 2010, it is expected to jump another 10%, to \$997.07.

What does this mean for parishes? If your parishioners are paying for these services, is your parish making good use of them to stay in touch?



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ADDITIONAL
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INFORMATION?**



YES!

You can click on the
news letter web site

<http://www.archphila.org/pastplan/INDEX/InFormationindex.html>

Note:

You can print as many copies as you need but-



Remember
Save A
TREE!

The Philadelphia Archdiocesan Office for Research and Planning is among the 19% of Americans on

Twitter. To get all our latest research and numbers on Twitter go to:

<http://twitter.com/PhillyCatholic>



Follow Us
On
Twitter

Has your parish or Cluster entered into a Planning Process?

Do you need a professional Facilitator?

The office of Research and Planning maintains a list of trained and experienced Resource people.

Contact us at: *The Archdiocese of Philadelphia*
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E-mail orp@adphila.org

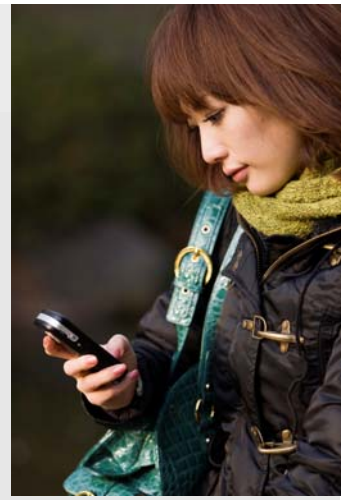
The Age of Tweets

Face Book? Twitter? Ning? You tube? Blogs? HELP!

Recently I've noticed that anyone under thirty years of age will not answer a cell phone call, however if I text them, a reply returns within a few minutes. I don't know why, myself, I'd rather talk but that's just me and I'm old. Social networks? I don't get that either.

I really like the TV commercial where the father Tweets that he's sitting on his couch and his young son says "dad I know you're on the couch and I don't care". The father just grins like he just broke some secret code. If that makes sense to you please e-mail me the explanation. (by the way I think e-mail might be getting obsolete) On the other hand, even though texting doesn't make much sense to me. I can use it to reach younger generations. Now I'm trying to master the social net-

works so I can continue to - communicate with younger people. I also believe our parishes need to understand these communications vehicles if we are to continue to be a voice to all ages. Our only job is to spread the Gospel. Unfortunately, most under-thirties don't use the phone book. So how do they find us? In fact hardly anyone "lets their fingers do the walking" these days. So where and when could one go to find you and learn how they could hear the Gospel? Do you advertise? Have a web site? A blog? Can I



follow you on Twitter? Face Book? How does one find out where and when the Mass is celebrated? Word of mouth? Advertising? On your web site? Is it up to date? In a news paper add? If no one tells them will they come?

Have you thought about putting parts of this weeks liturgy on your web site, in video? At least the Gospel and Homily.? Remember on any given Sunday a large percentage of your parish doesn't attend Mass

[To learn a little about our Twitter site see The article on page 4](#)

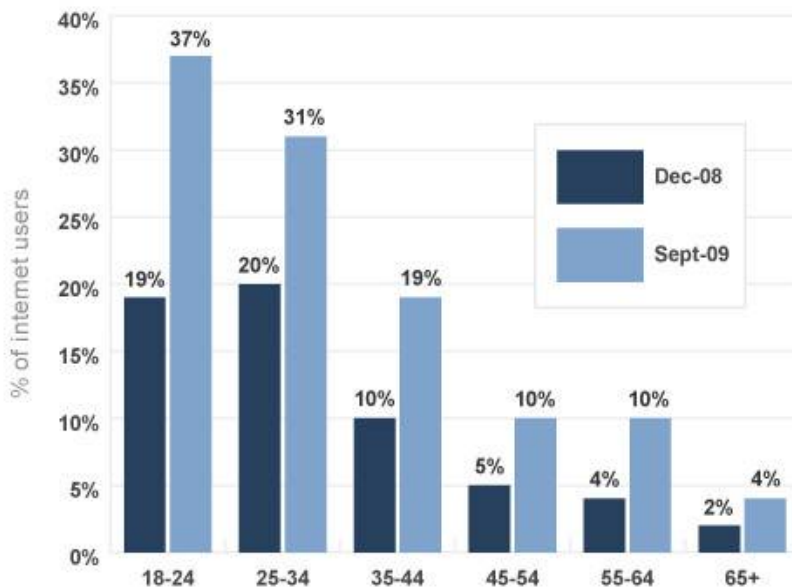
Article by Ron Lill



Roughly three-in-ten online Americans ages 25 to 34 tweet. Older adults are far less likely to be on Twitter, with roughly one-in-ten internet-using adults between the ages of 45 and 64 tweeting. The median age for a Twitter user is 31.

Young people flock to Twitter

Internet users age 18-44 are more likely than older users to use Twitter or another status update service.



Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project surveys conducted from November 19-December 20, 2008, and August 18-September 14, 2009.



Trivia BOX

How can I learn more about our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia?

Go to Page 5 in the answer box



PhillyCatholic



The Office for Research and Planning in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has been posting "Tweets" on a Twitter page for a few months. It's known as Philly Catholic and the response has been quite positive.

Anyone can follow the link twitter.com/PhillyCatholic and learn some of the many interesting facts about the Church in Philadelphia. Just take a look at what is being posted. I think you'll be surprised at the great things our Philly Catholic brothers and sisters are doing. Some of the Tweets I've seen:

Tech for parishes about relationships at Parish Tech Summit Villanova U
<http://ncronline.org/news/faith-parish/technology-parishes-about-relationships>

Parishes employ 131 Directors of the Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults who are volunteers; 51 are employed either full or part time. [10:21 AM Mar 25th](#)

Most Philly Catholic parishes offer communal celebrations of Reconciliation once or twice a year with an average attendance of 98. [3:06 PM Mar 23rd](#)



Philly Catholics in Chester county have increased by 27% in the last 10 years. <http://tw0.us/9Cv2:34> [PM Mar 22nd](#) via web

88% of parishes sponsor Stations of the Cross during Lent. This the most popular form of religious devotion in Philly. <http://tw0.us/8Xk> [9:57 AM Mar 18th](#)

Happy St Patrick's Day! 773,598 people of Irish ancestry in Archdiocese. Delco most Irish 29% Bucks, 25%, Montco 23% Chester 22% Philly 14% [9:58 AM Mar 17th](#)

Last year, blood donors from 116 parishes and 17 Archdiocesan high schools contributed over 13,500 units of blood. [1:55 PM Mar 12th](#)



Parish staff meeting is one of the most important disciplines a parish staff team can practice [10:40 AM Mar 8th](#) via web see InFormation 8-2 <http://www.archphila.org/pastplan/newstuff/InFormation/information8-2.pdf>

Young adults' belief about God, heaven, hell and miracles similar to older people but less likely to affiliate w/ church. <http://tw0.us/6V2> [3:19 PM Mar 5th](#)



Have you seen this bird?



Summit looks at how parishes can use technology to engage Catholics

VILLANOVA, Pa. (CNS) -- Desktop and laptop computers will be artifacts in the Smithsonian in three years, replaced by mobile computing devices known as "smart phones," a keynote speaker predicted at a technology summit for parishes. Steve Hewitt, editor of Christian Computing Magazine and Christian Video Magazine, called it the "personal computing age" led by those under 40. "They don't care about network TV; they care about what other people have to say," he told the 200 people attending the summit on the campus of Villanova University. "They prefer text messaging to any other type of communication." To connect with this

crowd, he suggested Catholic parishes use Webinars, social networking, blogging and texting. He also said "video testimonies" of people's stories of faith can become a powerful presence on YouTube, a video sharing site. Hewitt and another keynote speaker, Sister Susan Wolf, a Sister of Notre Dame who is an Internet and social media strategist and consultant, addressed technology's effect on people's daily lives in separate sessions at an all-day summit sponsored by the Center for the Study of Church Management at Villanova's business school Feb. 25. "Parishes are having a hard time attracting and keeping young people," said Charles Zech, the center's director. "Young people communicate through social networks like Facebook. We need to meet people where they are."



Clergy and Laity Together: Building Parishes continued from page 1

2. move priests to where they are needed. Priests could be re-assigned from other ministries in education, healthcare social services, etc. to parish ministries. By 2025, if every priest were placed in

parish ministry we could add a maximum of 63 priests but in this case no priest would be assigned full time to hospital, education, social services, administrative work.

3. create different parish structures where they are needed. This strategy reduces the demand or need for priests by creating different parish structures (by combining or closing parishes to reduce the number of parishes needing a pastor) This approach would result in fewer and larger parishes.

The additions and subtraction of parishes is a normal part of the evolution of the archdiocese. In the past 15 years, the total number of parishes has changed from 302 to 267, a net reduction of 35 parishes or about 2-3 per year. We would probably need to continue at this pace or a little greater so that we would have a net

reduction in the number of parishes by about 3-4 per year. This incremental approach is very similar to the way parishes are created. The largest number of parishes ever erected in a single year was 8. This occurred 4 times; once in 1919 and again in **1923, 1953 and 1963.** Without sudden major migrations, the need to close or open large numbers of parishes in a single year is not normally necessary.

The archdiocese has a relatively small geography compared to many parts of our country. As a result, there are many options in organizing parishes of the archdiocese that are simply not available in other diocese.

4. create different parish staffing arrangements. Pastors can be asked to pastor more than one parish. Provided the parish has the resources, more full time lay ministers for religious education, administration etc. can be hired. Parishes could expand the use of lay ministers and the archdiocese could develop programs for training and certifying pastoral administrators.

The information presented here and the four strategies have **implications for future Parish Pastoral plans:**

1. Efforts to attract **vocations to the priesthood** need to be incorporated into planning throughout the archdiocese at the parish and cluster level.
2. **Plans for parishes** (new parishes and schools) need to be able to adapt and still be workable with fewer priests. Parishes need to be erected and staffed in a way that ensures sustainability with fewer priests.
3. Strategies to expand **lay parish leadership and staffing** to provide for additional resources for parish ministry needs to be pursued.

In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia pastoral planning has been an ongoing cyclical process for parishes and clusters of parishes since the 1990's.

As this cyclical process continues in our parishes and among groups of parishes, this new information helps to define what we need to address and to incorporate this into goals and objectives, and to consult with parishioners and prioritize actions to be taken.



*This article was written by Dr. Robert Miller Director,
Office for Research and Planning Archdiocese of Philadelphia*

Requests for hospital chaplains — from religious and nonreligious patients and families — are growing as hospitals care for sicker patients who are often grappling with questions about aggressive care and death. Chaplains also attribute it to the increase in Latino patients, many of whom are deeply religious.

BOSTON GLOBE | 8.31.09

F.Y.I.

Continued from Page 1

WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE PARISH

Sudoku is all well and good, but nothing teases the brain better than the real deal: meaningful readings and discussion of the scripture challenges students to think.

- Learning may begin in the classroom but it doesn't end there. Older adults who engage in meaningful study of their faith, from special lectures to informal bull sessions, have more spring in their step and bring life to the parish.



Did you Know?

Roughly one-in-five Catholics say they attend services of at least one faith other than Catholicism, with most of these (18% of Catholics overall and 16% of white Catholics) saying they attend Protestant services. About one-in-twenty Catholics report attending services at Jewish synagogues (5%) and 1% say they attend Muslim mosques.

Answer Box

You can learn more about our Archdiocesan Schools by getting a free download of the school report

Go to: http://archphila.org/pastplan/INDEX/MandR_index.html

The report is in PDF and requires Adobe reader if you don't have Adobe Reader you can download a free copy at :

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>