



# InFormation

News for Pastoral Planners and Those Implementing the Plan

The InFormation home page is <http://www.archphila.org/pastplan/INDEX/InFormationindex.html>

## 2009 A NEW YEAR!

For the office for research and planning 2009 is a year of preparation. It is the year before the census, the foundation for the numbers and projections that are presented on the web site.

Many other things need close consideration as we develop our new year resolutions for 2009 perhaps revisit our parish plan. Have things changed since we met on the issues and mission of our parish? What about our cluster plan? Can we find more ways to cooperate? Share resources? Do we coordinate events with our neighboring parishes? When was our last cluster meeting?

Perhaps 2009 is a good year to evaluate our religious education programs. We could move into the new decade with a renewed emphasis on teaching the word of Jesus to adults and children. What media should we employ: Web site, Parish school, Prep program, Internet. What is available to help us meet our commitment to spreading the Gospel?

*By Ron Lill*



## Staying connected in the future

Washington, DC - 12/14/2008 - A survey of Internet leaders, activists and analysts shows they expect major technological advances as the phone becomes a primary device for online access, voice-recognition improves, artificial and virtual reality become more embedded in everyday life, and the architecture of the Internet itself improves.

They disagree about whether this will lead to more social tolerance, more forgiving human relations, or better home lives.

Among the key findings in a new report based on the survey of experts by the Pew Internet & American Life Project that asked for predictions about technology and its roles in the year 2020 are:

The mobile device will be the primary connection tool to the Internet for most people in the world in 2020.

The transparency of people and organizations will increase, but that will not necessarily yield more personal integrity, social tolerance, or forgiveness.

Voice recognition and touch user-interfaces with the Internet will be more prevalent and accepted by 2020.

The divisions between personal time and work time and

between physical and virtual reality will be further erased for everyone who is connected, and the results will be mixed in their impact on basic social relations.

"The Internet is now used by 1.6 billion people, with another billion expected to be added soon," said the report's principal author Janna Anderson, director of the Imagining the Internet Center and associate professor of communications at Elon University.

"A strong undercurrent of anxiety runs through these experts' answers: They are quite sure the Internet and cell phones will continue to advance at an amazing clip, but they are not at all sure people will make the same kind of progress as they embrace better, faster, cheaper gadgets," said Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Internet & American Life Project. "The picture they paint of the future is that technology will give people the power to be stronger actors in the political and economic world, but that won't necessarily make it a kinder, gentler world."

*Full results of the survey, including engaging quotes from hundreds of respondents and brief biographies on many of these people, can be found on the Pew Internet Project/Elon University Web site.*

<http://www.imaginingtheinternet.org/>



## Single Boomers without kids face uncertain future

**What's happening?** At a time of economic crisis, most aging consumers are wary about the future. Prospects are even more daunting for so-called "orphan Boomers," who lack the built-in support systems of marriage and family

- About one-third of all U.S. Boomers are single, according to a 2008 AARP survey. Their ranks include the divorced, the never-married and the widowed.
- As they near retirement, some orphan boomers are banding together in communal households. Independent and assisted-living communities for these retirees are also springing up.
- Extended families provide emotional support. But childless singles still face legal problems when it comes to end-of-life medical and financial issues.

### WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE PARISH

- From encore careers to communal housing, Boomers are rewriting the rules of retirement. Even before the economic crunch, older singles were joining forces-

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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

# Can the Laity Help?



## Collars to suits?

In the last issue we published a chart titled *what do the numbers tell us?* <http://archphila.org/pastplan/InFormation/information8-5.pdf> (**Hint-** it's on page 5 of issue 8-5) If we do the math and compare 2006 with 2008, Arch. Phila. with the entire U.S. we see that the priest to catholic ratio is US 2008- 1,553 to 1 Phila. 2006- 1,423 to 1

When we add permanent Deacons, religious brothers and professional staff we see-

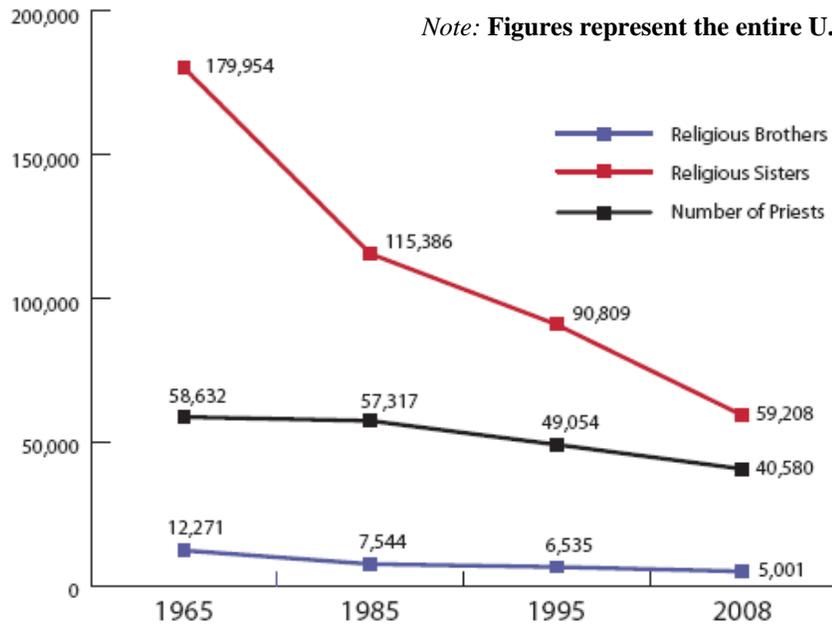
US- 2008- 834 to 1  
Phila.- 2006- 919 to 1

Once again what do the numbers tell us?

Ron Lill

## From collars to suits

Many of the leadership, management and human-resource challenges facing the Church stem from the declining number of priests and Religious serving the Church and the increasing numbers of laity taking their place. In 1991, for example, there were 15,000 lay ministers. By 2006, that number climbed to 30,000.



Note: Figures represent the entire U.S.

Based upon data collected by Georgetown's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

F.Y.I.

The Winter 2008 issue of "Church" Magazine Featured a center insert Titled-PASTORAL PLANNING AND COUNCILS FEATURING SEVERAL AUTHORS INCLUDING .... Marti Harrington

Marti wrote an article about the successful merger of two Philadelphia Parishes titled "A Journey of Hope"

To read this article go to:

[http://www.churchmagazine.org/issue/0812/cen\\_journev\\_of\\_hope.php](http://www.churchmagazine.org/issue/0812/cen_journev_of_hope.php)



Marti Harrington, Archdiocese of Philadelphia Coordinator Parish Pastoral Councils



CAN I GET  
ADDITIONAL  
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INFORMATION?

You can click on to the news letter web site

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

Note:

You can print as many copies as you need



## Trivia Box

In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

How much do Catholic households give to the parish annually?

Go to Page 4 in the answer box

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  
222 n. 17th Street Rm.216  
Phila. Pa 19103

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# What are some Parishes doing to fill the pews?

## EVANGELIZATION ACTIVITIES AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

**Presentation: DO YOU HEAR? (AN EVENING OF CAROLING AND TEACHINGS ON THOSE CHRISTMAS CAROLS)**

1. St. Joseph, Downingtown: *we stopped counting after 700 people.*
2. Epiphany Parish, Plymouth Meeting: *The attendance was great despite the dismal rainy night! A lot of the faces were unfamiliar.*
3. St. John Fisher, Boothwyn: *The people loved to hear the history behind the carols and reflect on verses unfamiliar to them.*

If you would like to offer "Do you Hear" to your parishioners next year. Workshops will be offered in the late Spring and Fall."

**Also Our Lady of Ransom, Philadelphia** – left religious materials at 5600 households. Over a 2 day period students and parishioners went to every house in the area and put plastic bags with materials on every door. Some of the items in the packets were: parish bulletin, November and December schedule of parish events, invitation to Thanksgiving and Christmas Masses, *English as Second Language* classes, citizenship classes, etc. Some materials were in English and Spanish.

For more information contact Joann Jordan, Coordinator of Evangelization, 215-624-6782.

## If You're LOOKING FOR CREATIVE WAYS TO FILL THE PEWS

**Sr. Louise can help With the following:**



### Presentations:

- Too Few in the Pew! Inviting the inactive and unchurched.
- Becoming a More Welcoming Parish
- Creating and rejuvenating Small Christian Communities
- Developing a Home Visitation Outreach
- St. Paul: Teach Us to Evangelize
- Ministry: Servicing with an Evangelizing Heart
- Catholic Education: Fertile Ground for Making Disciples
- Liturgy: Creating Space for the Finger of God
- Individual meetings with Pastor/Pastoral Staff
- Presentation to Pastoral Councils, Parish Organization and/or Entire Parish

**Sr. Louise's greatest desire is to work with your parish**

If Sister can be of service, please contact her at 215-587-0547 or e-mail [SRLALFF@adphila.org](mailto:SRLALFF@adphila.org)



Invigorate your **WHOLE** parish!  
Free, practical, concrete services  
delivered right to your door!



**Sr. Louise Alff O.S.F.**  
Coordinator for evangelization  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

## TO RECEIVE MORE CREATIVE EVANGELIZATION IDEAS?

Sign up for the *Evangelization Newsletter* which has:

- Evangelization ideas from around the diocese and country
- Resources from National Evangelization Organizations
- Listing of workshops and services available to parishes
- Reflections on Sunday readings and more . . .

### How to sign up for newsletter:

Email Sr. Louise at: [SRLALFF@adphila.org](mailto:SRLALFF@adphila.org). Say: "add me to newsletter." Please indicate your parish.

**LAST THOUGHT:** Best Vitamin for Christians – B1 *All this information appeared in Sister Louise Alff's News Letter*

# Think Big! See the Forest for the Trees!!

Think Big and See the Forest for the Trees were two themes from the first (of two) excellent presentation by Dr. Mary Ann Gubish at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Life Congress on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Each Parish Pastoral Council is encouraged to see the relationship between Jesus' mission and its own mission. Dr.Gubish reminded the audience, "we are all in this together", and together, we need to live the ministry of parish pastoral councils to be a planning, visioning leadership body.

Five core concepts for parish pastoral councils are: Mission, Consensus, Plan, Oversight, and Spiritual Formation.

**Mission:** It is important for each PPC to articulate the central focus for the parish; to listen for God's direction as we identify and prioritize how the parish is being called to live out its specific vision.

**Consensus:** Consensus is seeking the unity beyond our differences. Praying and sharing faith together builds a basis for listening to one another, and to the parish, so that the direction set and objectives selected are shared values.

**Plan:** Planning means making choices about the future, setting direction and getting results. Planning require knowing who the people are, what the issues are, and listening, listening, listening.

**Oversight:** Plan oversight by the PPC guarantees that the plan is kept alive by on-going evaluation and appropriate adjustments. Oversight provides accountability, with opportunity to celebrate successes and share challenges.

**Spiritual Formation:** Central to all PPC activities is spiritual formation of members and the parish. Prayer, study and shared reflection on Scripture and Church teachings allow the council to be led by the grace of God's messages to us. A summary of Dr. Gubish's second presentation will be in the next edition of InFormation.

*A copy of the power point slides used in the presentation described above can be found at <http://www.archphila.org/pastplan/EducationResources/Gubish%20seeing%20the%20forest%20for%20the%20trees-Phil.ppt>*



*This article was written by Marti Harrington  
Coordinator Parish Pastoral Councils*

## Prayer for a Meeting



Before we become involved in the routines of our work, we pause to seek inside for the strength and wisdom of Jesus.

Though we are each experienced in the ways of the world, we all of us know too little of the ways of the spirit.

Our community calls us, by appointing us to council, to give all of our worldly knowledge in our meetings; the spirit that moves between us calls us, by a whispering in our hearts, to give all that we can in love.

May we find in ourselves the ability to forgive and forget the failures and failings of the past, so that we may be set free from them.

May we be always more ready to see the good and hopeful in any person and any matter than we are to see the bad and the despairing.

May we remember that when we set standards for what we expect of others, we should expect more from our selves.

In our differences may we be kind, in our agreements may we be humble, that those who learn of our work may see the fruits of the spirit working among us.

In the name of Jesus our Lord We Pray **Amen**

Loosely based on a prayer by Jeffrey Bowes - 2003



### Single Boomers *Continued from page 1*

and moving in together. Expect the trend to tick upward during tough times.

- Some retirees prefer to go it alone. The need for in-house services like meal preparation and grocery shopping can only grow as single Boomers age.
- When it comes to end-of-life issues, hand-shake pacts don't cut it. Older parishioners without family need sound legal advice from specialists they can trust.

*Article by Dr. Robert Miller  
Director: Office for Research and Planning*

### Answer Box

**Average Sunday Collection  
per Contributing Catholic  
Household-\$516  
Share of Average  
Household  
Income 0.8%**