



InFormation

News for Pastoral Planners and Those Implementing the Plan

Primarily an electronic publication

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

The Due Diligence of Parish Pastoral Planning The Role and Responsibility of the Parish Pastoral Council



Pastoral planning is the annual, cyclical process by which a Pastor in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) engages the parish members in choosing a way to move the Mission of the parish forward, making the most of every opportunity and challenge that comes its way. Key

to the success of pastoral planning is recognition that it is Spirit driven and collaborative. It is important to remember that pastors, council members and parishioners are all in this together!!

The Church is an experience of communion and that is why pastoral planning cannot be realized as the achievement of an individual. The Pastor is ultimately responsible for the pastoral life of the parish and is accountable to the Bishop. Shared responsibility for the life and mission of the Church is for all of the baptized. Therefore, when the PPC performs its role effectively it mobilizes the parish toward shared responsibility for the life and mission of the Church.

“A great many wonderful things are to be hoped for from this familiar dialogue between the laity and their spiritual leaders: in the laity a strengthened sense of personal responsibility; a renewed enthusiasm; a more ready application of their talents to the projects of their spiritual leaders. The latter, on the other hand, aided by the experience of the laity, can more clearly and more incisively come to decisions regarding both spiritual and temporal matters. In this way, the whole Church, strengthened by each one of its members, may more effectively fulfill its mission for the life of the world” (Lumen Gentium,37).

Guidance for the Church, and for each parish, comes through parish leaders and also through the people and circumstances of each parish. The PPC must rise to the challenge of finding ways to invite the baptized, all of the parishioners, into the visioning and planning process.

How do we do this? We recognize that through the sacraments of initiation the Spirit is dwelling in all of the faithful. We also recognize that through the gifts and charisms within each person the same Spirit is working in the world today. The consultative process of the PPC is one way to achieve this.

Consultation largely means listening. The PPC finds ways to LISTEN to the parish. Listening can mean techniques such as interviews, focus groups, parish assemblies, surveys, and requesting idea submissions.

Listening can also mean “hearing the data”. What do the numbers tell us about the spiritual life of the parish, demographic realities and the financial realities? (Significant data and analysis for all parishes and clusters of parishes is available at the web site for the Office of Research and Planning, <http://archphila.org/pastplan/index.htm>) Understanding the actual experiences of our parishioners is at the heart of pastoral planning. We are listening for the spiritual needs of our members. We are listening for specific questions about the goals of the pastoral plan. We are listening for trends in sacramental and educational participation. And we then listen for the Spirit to move among us showing us how to incorporate these messages into a pastoral plan which furthers the mission of Jesus Christ that embraces the realities of the parish and moves the parish into the future together.

This article was written by:

Marti Harrington, Coordinator Parish Pastoral Councils



Based on a presentation by Dr. Mary Ann Gubish, at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Catholic Life Congress, November 8, 2009. To view that Pwr. Pt. Presentation -

<http://www.archphila.org/pastplan/EducationResources/Gubish%20seeing%20the%20forest%20for%20the%20trees-Phil.ppt>

The last issue of InFormation, had a summary of the first of two presentations by Dr. Mary Ann Gubish at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Life Congress.

See issue 9-1 Page 4:

<http://www.archphila.org/pastplan/InFormation/information9-1.pdf>

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Suggestions for future articles should be directed to Ron Lill *editor*

e-mail: orp@adphila.org

Phone: 1-215-587-3545

These suggestions are encouraged and welcomed

Prayer for a Meeting



Heavenly Father, please bless us with ears to listen and eyes to see...

May we hear what each person is saying to us, may we all discern what You are saying to us, and may we see Your hand in the story of the life of our parish.

Give us wisdom to know when to speak, when to be silent and when to pray.

Holy Spirit, guide us in this meeting, for Your glory and for our good.
In the name of the most high our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

RECESSION!

Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from recession!"

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Religious Americans have put the economic crisis at the top of their prayers. In October 2008, the Christian devotional magazine Guideposts surveyed 2,500 readers. It asked them "What are you praying for these days?" The most common answer was "financial relief" followed distantly by "the United States and our leaders."

And 15% of respondents said they're praying for a new job. Together with those praying for financial relief, half of all Guideposts readers are talking to God about personal money worries. Christians have more options than ever for worldly financial counseling. Many

Churches and faith communities today offer religious financial counseling, especially as it relates to family stress.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR PARISHES

The emotional stress of economic trouble could send even the most agnostic consumer looking for God.

Religious impulses are amplified by tough times. Church attendance surges in the wake of national tragedies and crises. That's because people feel out of control, and they return to stabilizing traditions and beliefs. Parishes may want to consider how they are addressing the needs of people in financial difficulty not just with donations but with counseling, networking and other support.

F.Y.I.

Roman Catholics around the world

The Roman Catholic Church - the largest branch of Christianity - says there are a total of 1.086 billion baptized members around the globe.

The Americas have the lion's share of baptized Catholics, with 49.8% (approx 541 million); Europe accounts for 25.8% (approx 282 million); Africa has 13.2% of the total (approx 143 million); Asia - 10.4% (approx 113 million); Oceania - 0.8% (approx 9 million).

In the U.S.A.

Total population: 292million Number of Catholics: 66.3million (22%) About 6.2% of the world's Catholic population

History: Roman Catholicism arrived with Spanish explorers and settlers in the 16th Century. But numbers remained relatively small until waves of mass emigration in the 19th Century brought millions from countries such as Ireland, France, Germany and Italy. Later arrivals from Latin America and Asia have also swelled numbers.

Trivia Box

Where does Pennsylvania rank in total Hispanic population?



ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT:

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



Note:

You can print as many copies as you need. But remember to save the trees!

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

Phone 215-587-3545

E-mail orp@adphila.org

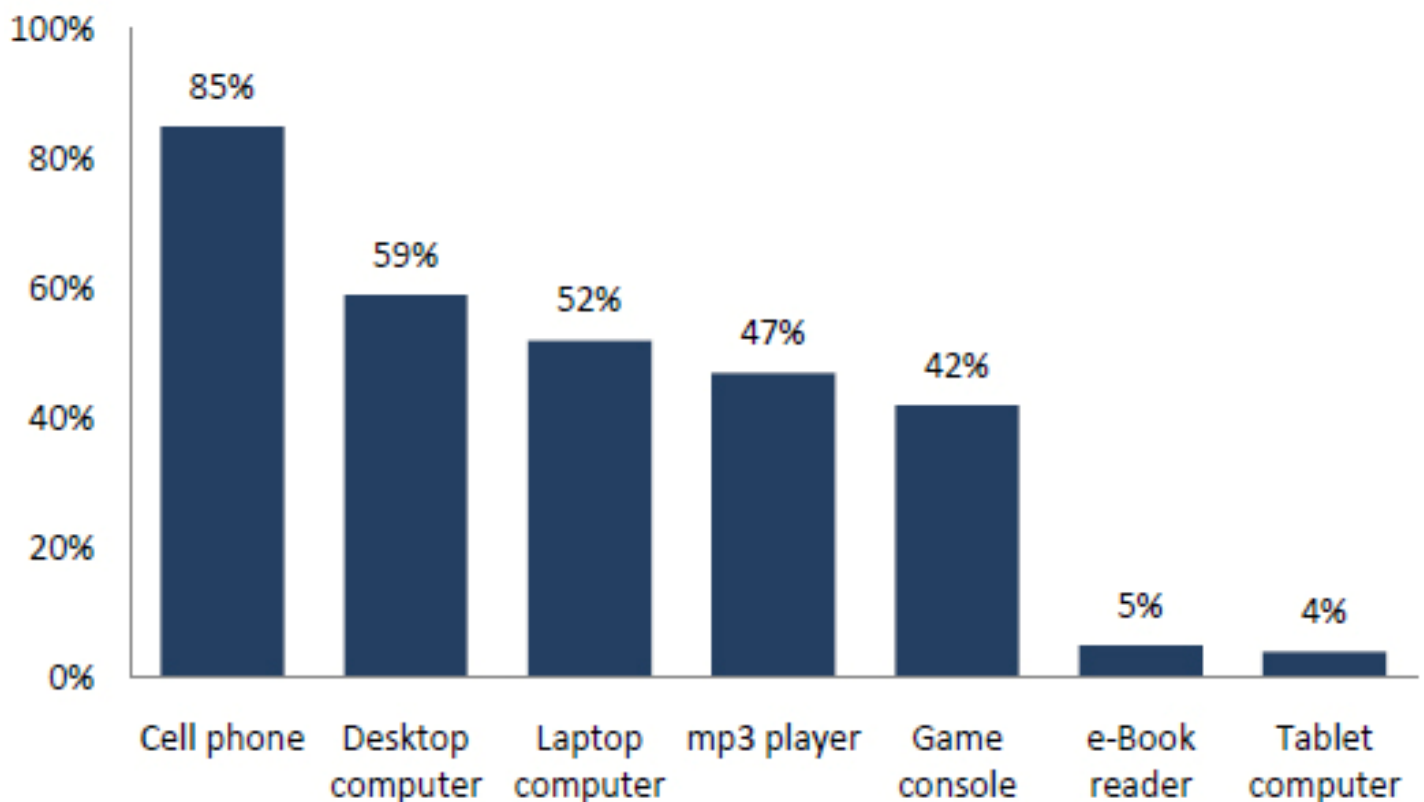
Americans and Their Technology Devices

Americans really do love their “gadgets” According to a recent survey conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project. When it comes to personal communication devices, the cell phone remains the “gadget of choice” among Americans in 2010 -- fully 85% of all adults (and [three-quarters of teens](#)) now own a mobile phone. Computers are the second-most commonly owned piece of personal technology, as six-in-ten Americans own a desktop computer and half own a laptop. Just under half of all adults own an mp3 player (47%) or console gaming device (42%), while e-book readers and tablet computers are each owned currently by around one-in-twenty adults.



Gadget Ownership, 2010

% of American adults who own each device



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, August 9-September 13, 2010 Tracking Survey. N=3,001 adults 18 and older, including 1,000 reached via cell phone. Interviews were conducted in English (n=2,804) and Spanish (n=197).

Aging & the Global Economy



An in-depth analysis of the economic impact of aging has recently been published by George Magnus, the senior economic advisor at the Swiss UBS investment bank.

In "The Age of Aging: How Demographics Are Changing the Global Economy and Our World" (John Wiley and Sons), Magnus starts by commenting that we have no precedents to guide us in this situation of a rapidly aging

population. By 2050 there will be almost 2 billion people over 60, around 22% of the forecasted total world population, a major change compared to this group's current share of 10%. The shift in age structure will bring with it, Magnus explained, new economic, social and political issues. As for the over-80s, they are expected to increase from the current number of 88 million, to over 400 million by 2050.

An aging population means there will be less people working to support those who are retired. The working-age population, from 15-64, will grow, but only slightly, in the United States in coming years. In Japan, however, the working-age numbers are already declining and in Western Europe they are almost at a standstill, Magnus explained.

Some countries will be particularly hard hit. In Japan and Italy, for example, the over-65s were approximately 30% of the working-age population in 2005. By 2050 estimates reach 70%. This means that while currently in Japan there are 3.4 people at work for every person over 65, by 2050 this will have dropped to only 1.3. In general, in Western Europe the current level of almost four working people for every person over 65 will be approximately halved by 2050.

It's not only the developed world that is facing a dramatic shift in age distribution. In China, thanks to the draconian family planning measures, the number of those working for every person over 65 will plummet from today's level of 9.2 down to 2.5 by 2050.

Persuading more people to enter the workforce is one solution to a shortage of workers, but Magnus deflated the expectations of that solution, referring to a study carried out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to the IMF the overall participation rate of a nation's population who are working would have to increase by a bit over 10% in advanced countries to help offset aging. In the economically booming times of the 1990s, however, workforce participation increased by only 6%, when economic conditions were as favorable as they could be.

Raising retirement ages and encouraging more women to enter the workforce can contribute to a solution for falling numbers of workers, but are only very partial remedies. At the same time that aging is taking place, younger people are delaying their entry into work. In part this is due to increasing numbers undertaking university studies, but many young people are also taking breaks before entering the workforce and living at home with their parents.

An older population means much higher health care costs and increased welfare spending. But with fewer taxpayers supporting government finances, funding this expenditure will be a real problem. Many people are not doing enough to save for retirement. A recent survey in the United States shows that many people simply assume they will receive health coverage and a pension from their company and have only negligible savings.

In fact, Magnus said, for some time American households have been under saving, or over consuming. Even countries like Japan, with traditionally high savings rates, have seen a decline in savings in the last decade, due to adverse economic conditions.

Government spending on the retired and elderly will soar in the coming years, at a much faster rate than the underlying rate of economic growth can finance. So there are going to be difficult decisions about spending priorities and levels of taxation.

Unless employees start to put away more of their income into savings schemes for retirement, poverty in old age will be a serious risk. Already the current woes have severely affected many retired people who depended on investments to finance their retirement. With aging set to bring about drastic demographic change in coming decades, the future prospects for many people will be based on help from family, the community and more importantly from the parish.

As we annually visit our parish plan do we project the average age and economic health of our future parishioners? How can we plan for the parish profile of the future? Will we be able to offset some of the pending poverty on the horizon?

This article written by our director:

Dr. Robert Miller, Office for Research & Planning

Migration

In recent years, migration has been the most significant source of Pennsylvania's population growth, particularly international migration. Compared to other states, a larger share of Pennsylvania's population growth has come from international migration than from natural increase (births minus deaths) or domestic migration from other states.

Between 2007 and 2008, that trend has continued, with Pennsylvania gaining 3,554 people from migration. Domestic migration alone, however, resulted in population loss, with 11,462 people moving out of Pennsylvania to another state. At the same time, 15,016 people moved to Pennsylvania from outside of the United States. **Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau**

Answer Box

Pennsylvania ranks 14th With a Hispanic population of 565,000 *Source <http://pewhispanic.org/states/?stateid=PA>*