

PART II. PRIORITIES

Effective organization demands that our Diocese establish priorities. Listed below are some suggested priorities. CHECK THE FIVE you feel are most necessary for building the Kingdom of God in our Diocese.

The figures printed in black after each question indicates the total number of respondents and percentage who chose that particular answer. The first red figure indicates that particular answer received in relation to the other alternatives. The red percentage is the exact reflection of that ranking.

1. a much greater emphasis on reaching out to those who no longer attend church or who have never attended church
TOTAL 3107 PERCENTAGE 72.6 RANK 1 PERCENTAGE 15.0
2. greater emphasis on renewal groups (Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, Charismatic Movement, etc.)
TOTAL 800 PERCENTAGE 18.7 RANK 12 PERCENTAGE 3.8
3. more effective ministry to the divorced, widowed, and separated in our midst
TOTAL 1433 PERCENTAGE 33.5 RANK 5 PERCENTAGE 6.9
4. more intensive efforts to meet the needs of the materially and spiritually poor in our midst
TOTAL 2450 PERCENTAGE 57.3 RANK 4 PERCENTAGE 11.8
5. developing closer bonds with the other Christian denominations in our midst
TOTAL 1341 PERCENTAGE 31.3 RANK 6 PERCENTAGE 6.4
6. that we begin to give more authority to consultative groups at the parish and diocesan levels. (i.e. Parish Councils, Diocesan Pastoral Council, Priests' Council and Sisters' Council)
TOTAL 796 PERCENTAGE 18.6 RANK 13 PERCENTAGE 3.8
7. that we develop a method whereby parishioners are regularly involved in evaluating the parish staffs who serve them
TOTAL 1334 PERCENTAGE 31.2 RANK 7 PERCENTAGE 6.4
8. that we strive to enable women to assume full and equal participation in our diocesan and parish life
TOTAL 972 PERCENTAGE 22.7 RANK 10 PERCENTAGE 4.7
9. that we develop a more effective ministry to the senior citizens in our parishes
TOTAL 1117 PERCENTAGE 26.1 RANK 9 PERCENTAGE 5.4
10. that we make greater efforts to raise consciousness of and response to pro-life issues
TOTAL 1187 PERCENTAGE 27.7 RANK 8 PERCENTAGE 5.7
11. that we take steps to promote joyful and spirit-filled liturgical celebrations in every parish in our Diocese
TOTAL 2529 PERCENTAGE 59.1 RANK 3 PERCENTAGE 12.2
12. that we develop a more effective ministry to the disabled and handicapped in our parishes
TOTAL 862 PERCENTAGE 20.1 RANK 11 PERCENTAGE 4.1
13. that greater emphasis be given to programs which enable families to share and pass on their gift of faith
TOTAL 2767 PERCENTAGE 64.7 RANK 2 PERCENTAGE 13.3

PART III. PERSONNEL

The Diocese is confronted with a diminishing number of priests and sisters. Lay participation is on the increase, but just salaries and benefits limit many parishes and the Diocese's ability to utilize these resources. In light of these personnel restrictions, CHECK UP TO THREE courses of action the Diocese could most appropriately undertake.

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1. devote more existing personnel to promoting and fostering vocations to priesthood, sisterhood, and lay church vocations
TOTAL 1420 PERCENTAGE 33.2 RANK 2 PERCENTAGE 11.7
2. merge parishes and parish staff wherever this seems feasible
TOTAL 1220 PERCENTAGE 28.5 RANK 4 PERCENTAGE 10.1
3. hire additional personnel for serving the poor instead of allowing personnel to be hired primarily where they can be afforded
TOTAL 494 PERCENTAGE 11.5 RANK 11 PERCENTAGE 4.1
4. recruit clergy from minority groups so that we can minister to their needs more effectively
TOTAL 903 PERCENTAGE 21.1 RANK 8 PERCENTAGE 7.5
5. place greater emphasis on the permanent diaconate and accept more than 20 candidates per year into this program
TOTAL 1114 PERCENTAGE 26.0 RANK 7 PERCENTAGE 9.2

6. place much greater emphasis on the use of former priests and sisters living in our midst
TOTAL 1197 PERCENTAGE 27.9 RANK 5 PERCENTAGE 9.9
7. develop more team ministries uniting priests, sisters, and laity in full time ministerial teams
TOTAL 1155 PERCENTAGE 27.0 RANK 6 PERCENTAGE 9.5
8. decentralize the pastoral office and offer more ministerial services on a regional level
TOTAL 659 PERCENTAGE 15.4 RANK 10 PERCENTAGE 5.4
9. develop greater cooperation among parishes
TOTAL 1520 PERCENTAGE 35.5 RANK 1 PERCENTAGE 12.6
10. do not focus only on our own need, but send more diocesan personnel into the missions
TOTAL 160 PERCENTAGE 3.7 RANK 13 PERCENTAGE 1.3
11. divide large parishes into smaller groupings so that no parish is served by more than one priest
TOTAL 205 PERCENTAGE 4.7 RANK 12 PERCENTAGE 1.7
12. develop much stronger lay leadership in parishes and reduce the dependence on priests and sisters
TOTAL 1282 PERCENTAGE 29.9 RANK 3 PERCENTAGE 10.6
13. emphasize training programs which facilitate more 'peer to peer' ministry among laity
TOTAL 718 PERCENTAGE 16.7 RANK 9 PERCENTAGE 5.9

PART IV. FUNDING

Parish and diocesan funds are limited. Program expansion requires that additional funds be raised or that current programs be curtailed. Listed below are emphases which would require significant additional funding.

CHECK UP TO THREE PROGRAMS which warrant implementation even though they would REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDS OR THE REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

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1. improve significantly the quality of religious education programs throughout the Diocese
TOTAL 1743 PERCENTAGE 40.7 RANK 2 PERCENTAGE 14.9
2. expand the parochial school system so that more children would have the opportunity to attend
TOTAL 1125 PERCENTAGE 26.3 RANK 4 PERCENTAGE 9.6
3. develop a comprehensive continuing education program to update the priests, sisters, and laity who are full-time members of parish staffs
TOTAL 1096 PERCENTAGE 25.6 RANK 5 PERCENTAGE 9.3
4. improve the Courier-Journal and have it sent into 50% more homes within the Diocese
TOTAL 273 PERCENTAGE 6.3 RANK 12 PERCENTAGE 2.3
5. continue to maintain St. Bernard's Seminary as the center for the preparation of diocesan priests
TOTAL 1761 PERCENTAGE 41.1 RANK 1 PERCENTAGE 15.0
6. expand the quality and quantity of services available to the disadvantaged throughout the Diocese
TOTAL 842 PERCENTAGE 19.6 RANK 8 PERCENTAGE 7.2
7. increase funding to sustain city schools thus maintaining our educational commitment to the poor in our midst
TOTAL 738 PERCENTAGE 17.2 RANK 9 PERCENTAGE 6.3
8. expand our ministry to the high school youth throughout the Diocese
TOTAL 1506 PERCENTAGE 35.2 RANK 3 PERCENTAGE 12.8
9. further develop our sense of mission by sending more money to serve the human and religious needs of women and men in the Third World
TOTAL 299 PERCENTAGE 6.9 RANK 11 PERCENTAGE 2.5
10. expand the quality and availability of adult education throughout the Diocese
TOTAL 1007 PERCENTAGE 23.5 RANK 6 PERCENTAGE 8.6
11. expand the services and programs offered to families throughout the Diocese
TOTAL 892 PERCENTAGE 20.8 RANK 7 PERCENTAGE 7.6
12. curtail existing programs thus reducing the need for additional funding
TOTAL 415 PERCENTAGE 9.7 RANK 10 PERCENTAGE 3.5