



**On Mission for The Church Alive!**

Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh

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## FACT SHEET

**On Mission for The Church Alive!** is a diocesan-wide planning initiative in which Bishop David Zubik invites all Catholics to envision how our parishes, schools, and ministries can best respond to the changes in our communities so that they can become vital centers of worship and service, and deepen people’s relationship with the Lord.

The goals of *On Mission for The Church Alive!* are to provide more vibrant liturgies, invigorate faith formation, strengthen school and parish partnerships, increase participation of the faithful in the life of the Church, and boldly proclaim Christ in word and action.

**Evangelization:** *On Mission* challenges us to respond to Pope Francis’ call to welcome those who have left the Church or are far from God.

Catholics are invited to take part in the work of the Church through the Eucharist, Catechesis, Formation, Evangelization, and Stewardship.

**District models:** *On Mission* is exploring new strategies, structures and staffing to best use available resources. These include inter-parish collaboration, ministry teams serving more than one parish, and parishes with multiple worship sites.

**Criteria:** Mission Territory- how do we reach all people in all areas? Pastoral Care- how do we best care for practicing Catholics? Financial Viability- how do we allocate resources for the next 20+ years? Clergy- where and how will priests and deacons be assigned in the future to serve most effectively?

**Timeline:**

May 2015- Year of Prayer and Study  
 Sept. 2016 – May 2017- Consultation process  
 Dec. 2017 - Recommendations to Bishop Zubik  
 Early 2018 – Bishop’s decisions for implementation

**Proposed Groupings of Parishes:**

<http://onmissionchurchalive.org/proposed-groupings-of-parishes/>

**Diocese of Pittsburgh at a Glance**

SW PA counties of: Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence, Washington

General population: 1,915,363 (2010)

Catholic population: 632,138 (2015)

Vicariates: Four

Districts: 21

Parishes: 188 Churches: 225

**Recent trends**

	2000	2015
Catholic population	753,147	632,138
Mass attendance	246,896	149,215
Marriages	3,258	1,693
Infant Baptisms	8,598	4,446
First Communions	8,797	4,989
Confirmations	9,083	5,733
Elementary schools	102	59
K-8 enrollment	23,690	11,540
Diocesan priests in active ministry	338	225
Current active priests (May 2017):	209	
Projected active priests in 2025:	112	

*Due to decreased participation & rising costs, the percent of parishes running operational deficits has risen from 32% to 50% in three yrs.*