

Archdiocesan Four Priorities Survey

The Archdiocese of Mobile is blessed with a variety of parishes, each with many, varied gifts. Each one has blessings and challenges which are unique to their parish family. This assessment tool is intended to be used by the pastor and parish leaders as a way to stimulate conversation regarding the four priorities set by Archbishop Rodi: Evangelization, Strengthening the Family, Serving the Needs of Neighbors, and Encouraging Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life. We do not expect that any parish will be able to answer “yes” to all of the questions below. Parish leaders are encouraged to take an honest look at their parish, celebrate the blessings, devise plans to conquer the challenges, and work to bring all within the parish borders into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

We suggest that parishes print out a hard copy of this form and allow groups to assess their ministries. After all groups have finished their assessment, they can turn in the completed portions of their assessment to one person who will log in to the online reporting form (please ask pastor for link), or return a hard copy back to the chancery (AFPS, Archdiocese of Mobile, 400 Government St, Mobile, AL 36602). If you choose to submit your responses online, you will find that your responses for each priority can be submitted separately. You don’t need to wait until you have all 4 sections completed before you begin to submit. Should you need it, you can access a copy of this assessment on the OEFL website at: mobilefaithformation.org/pastors/

This assessment is designed to be a simple check-off for most questions. In addition to the check-off questions, please answer all of the “short answer” questions at the end of each session. You may find that some of the questions may seem to be repetitive. This is because some of the sections may be completed by different groups.

We ask that this assessment be completed and submitted online or returned to the chancery no later than February 28.

Parish Name _____

Parish Address _____

Pastor _____

Name and email address of individual submitting this survey _____

Priority One: Evangelization

Category – Parish Outreach

1. Are the parish registration records up to date and accurate? _____
 - a. Do the numbers attending Mass each week coincide with the number registered? _____
 - b. Is there a process in place to reach out to people who attend Mass but aren't registered to encourage them to register? _____
 - c. Is there a process in place to reach out to registered parishioners who haven't been seen at Mass for a few weeks or more? _____
 - i. Is there a committee who makes phone calls to inactive parishioners? _____
 - ii. Is there a committee who visits inactive parishioners? _____
 - d. Is there a process in place to reach out to Catholics who live in the parish boundaries who haven't registered in your parish? _____
 - e. Is there door to door ministry inviting those living within parish boundaries to come to the parish? _____
2. What is the outreach to non-Catholics within the parish boundaries:
 - a. Is there a sign at the entrance to the property inviting visitors? _____
 - i. Does this sign reflect the languages of those who live within the parish bounds?

 - b. Are there activities planned to bring visitors onto the property (ie. talk by local sheriff about drug abuse, or local D.A. about child pornography) _____
 - c. Does the parish offer inquiry gatherings, explaining the RCIA process
 - i. Once a year? _____
 - ii. In the week immediately after well attended Masses such as Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter? _____
 - iii. Are inquiry gatherings offered in the languages of those who live within the parish bounds? _____
 - d. How often are inquiry gatherings offered?
 - i. Monthly _____
 - ii. Quarterly _____
 - iii. Yearly _____
 - e. What means are used to advertise inquiry gatherings and RCIA:
 - i. Parish bulletin _____
 - ii. Parish website _____
 - iii. Signage in vestibule _____
 - iv. Signage outside of church, visible from road _____
 - v. Flyers sent home with school students / RE students _____
 - vi. Other _____
 - f. Do inquiry gathering advertisements reflect the languages of those within the parish bounds?

3. How does your parish welcome people who come onto parish grounds?
 - a. Are there signs at each entrance to your property directing people to various buildings?

- i. Do these signs reflect the languages of those within the parish bounds? _____
 - b. Are greeters stationed at each entrance to the church before Mass? _____
 - i. Do the greeters reflect the cultural make-up of the community? _____
 - c. Are the greeters trained to ask questions of people they don't recognize (e.g. "Welcome! I'm John and have been a parishioner for 3 years. What is your name?") _____
 - d. Is your vestibule clean and well lit? _____
 - e. Are the restrooms immaculate? _____
 - f. Are the pew pockets checked after each weekend liturgy for trash? _____
 - g. Does your parish announce at Mass that visitors and new members are welcomed? _____
 - h. Are parish registration materials easily obtained?
 - i. Are registration materials easily located in the vestibule? _____
 - ii. Are trained volunteers available before/after each Mass who can help newcomers through the registration process? _____
 - iii. Are registration materials offered in the languages of the community? _____
 - i. What other strategies does your parish use to welcome visitors? _____
- 4. How does your parish welcome those who wish to register as members?
 - a. Are those who answer the phones able to speak the languages of those in the community? _____
 - b. Is the person who answers the office phone able to complete a registration request or does someone else become involved? _____
 - c. When a newcomer calls, is the person who answers the phone able to answer basic questions and able to share contact information of those who are able to answer additional questions? _____
 - d. Does someone from the parish call newcomers who register by mail to welcome them? _____
 - e. Does your parish place the names of new members in the bulletin? _____
 - f. Does your parish place a poster in the vestibule or parish hall with pictures of new members? _____
 - g. Are new members given a list of ministries and contact information (to volunteer or to seek help)? _____
 - h. What other strategies does your parish use to welcome new members? _____
- 5. Is the parish family regularly challenged to "go out and spread the Good News"? _____
- 6. Is the parish website and social media sites updated at least weekly (more than adding the new bulletin)? _____
- 7. Is the parish website easy for a newcomer to navigate? (If you don't know the answer to this one, ask an outsider to explore the website while you watch them.) _____
- 8. Regarding the parish answering machine message:
 - a. Is the message (played outside of office hours) welcoming? _____
 - b. Does the message include Mass & Reconciliation times and directions to the parish? _____
 - c. Is the answering machine ever full and unable to accept messages from the caller? _____
 - d. Is an emergency number given? _____
 - e. Does the language(s) of the message reflect the languages of those within the parish bounds? _____

1. Does your parish have religious education opportunities geared specifically towards:
 - a. Preschoolers _____
 - b. Students grade K-8 _____
 - c. Students grade 9-12 _____
 - d. Young adults _____
 - e. Families with young children _____
 - f. Families with teens _____
 - g. Empty nesters _____
 - h. Seniors _____
2. Are religious education opportunities offered in all the major languages of the community? _____
3. Are all materials distributed through the RE program offered in all of the major languages of the community? _____
4. How often is adult programming scheduled?
 - a. Three or more times a week _____
 - b. 1-3 times a week _____
 - c. 2-3 times a month _____
 - d. Monthly _____
5. Are accommodations provided for families who have small children during Adult Faith Formation (AFF) programs?
 - a. Nursery offered _____
 - b. Children welcomed _____
 - c. Time of AFF coincides with Religious Education classes _____
6. What percentage of the adults of the parish attend at least one AFF program each month? _____
7. How is adult formation offered for those who would find it difficult to come to the parish for a gathered event?
 - a. Resources sent home with school / RE students _____
 - b. Invitations to join in a parish education subscription such as "Formed" _____
 - c. Resources offered through parish website _____
 - d. Education offered at places other than parish campus (local restaurant or other place) _____
8. When you offer meetings for parents of students in sacrament classes, do you spend time:
 - a. catechizing the parents _____
 - b. informing the parents about the logistics of celebration of the sacrament? _____
9. Does your parish utilize the parent meeting resources put out by the Office of Evangelization and Family Life? _____
10. In regards to the children of your parish:
 - a. Determine the percentage of the children of your parish are enrolled in Catholic School or Religious Education programs:
 - i. Based on parish registration records, how many school aged children are in the parish?

 - ii. How many children are enrolled in a Catholic school (if applicable)? _____
 - iii. How many children are enrolled in the parish religious education program? _____
 - iv. Calculate: $(ii + iii) / i =$ percentage enrolled _____

- b. Approximately what percentage of the children/youth enrolled in your parish religious education program actually attend class each week? _____
 - c. What effort is made to reach out to families who are enrolled in RE program but miss classes:
 - i. Missed assignments/handouts are emailed to parents _____
 - ii. Resources shared to help parents discuss Sunday readings with children _____
 - iii. Catechist or PCL calls families after a number of missed absences _____
 - iv. Pastor or his designee meets with the family _____
 - d. What effort is made to reach out to families who do not have their children enrolled in Catholic school or the parish RE program?
 - i. Principal or PCL contacts personally calls parents to invite _____
 - ii. Committee contacts parents to invite participation _____
 - iii. Invitations to attend are mailed to parents _____
 - iv. Pastor or his designee meets with the family _____
11. How many catechists serve at your parish? (include those who work with children & youth, those who work with adults, and those who teach in the Catholic school) _____
- a. How many of them are certified through the Archdiocese? _____
 - b. How many are working toward certification in the John XXIII program and will be certified within two years? _____
12. What methods are employed to invite catechists to work towards certification?
- a. Personal invitation from Pastor _____
 - b. Personal invitation from PCL _____
 - c. Archdiocesan certification brochure shared with catechist _____
 - d. Videoed lessons facilitated at parish at times convenient to catechists _____
13. Do the PCL and school principal meet at least once a quarter to discuss issues such as shared classrooms, sacrament preparation and programs which bring the school and RE families together? _____
14. If your parish has a school, are catechists and their religious education students truly welcomed into the school classrooms for their classes?
- a. Do the catechists have spaces in the classroom to store their materials? _____
 - b. Can the RE students display their work in the classroom? _____
 - c. Do catechists and RE students have access to essentials such as tissues, hand sanitizer? _____
 - d. Are catechists informed as to the expectations for the room at the end of the session? _____
15. Are Confirmed high school students encouraged to assist in the religious education program? _____
16. Are parish members invited to pray specifically for students preparing for sacraments or for all of the children and youth of the RE program and school?
- a. Are intentions for the students added to the Sunday general intercessions? _____
 - b. Are prayer groups from the parish asked to pray specifically for the students? _____
 - c. Are parishioners given the opportunity to become a "Prayer Partner" for a specific student?

Category – Youth/Young Adult Ministry

1. Describe your parish high school youth ministry program:

- a. Program design:
 - i. Teens have the opportunity to attend an RE program separate from the YM program _____
 - ii. Teens receive their religious education through the YM program _____
- b. Teens have the opportunity to come together:
 - i. Two or more times each week _____
 - ii. Once each week _____
 - iii. One each month _____
 - iv. Less often than one time a month _____
- c. What percentage of the parish teens participate in the YM program? _____
- d. The high school youth ministry program includes:
 - i. Catechesis _____
 - ii. Prayer Opportunities
 1. A variety of devotional prayers _____
 2. Adoration _____
 3. Afternoon/Evening of Reflection _____
 4. Retreats
 - a. Daylong _____
 - b. Overnight _____
 - c. Weekend or longer _____
 5. Liturgical season experiences such as Advent or Lenten events? _____
 - iii. Service Opportunities
 1. Notification of individual opportunities _____
 2. Group service opportunities _____
 3. Family service opportunities _____
 4. Appropriate parish ministries _____
 - iv. Community building & fellowship _____
- e. How are parents invited to be a part of the youth ministry program?
 - i. Core Team members _____
 - ii. Prayer Team members _____
 - iii. Give talks _____
 - iv. Lead small groups _____
- f. How are events advertised to the parish? Is everyone in the parish (even those who don't have high school teens) aware of the activities of the youth ministry program?
 - i. Separate section in bulletin for youth _____
 - ii. Flyers in vestibule _____
 - iii. Written literature in vestibule concerning programs _____
 - iv. Posters with pictures of recent events _____
 - v. "Youth Ministry" section on parish website _____
 - vi. Posts from parish social media _____
 - vii. Other _____

- g. Are HS youth events advertised in languages that reflect the make-up of the community?

- h. Does the youth group participate in Archdiocesan events such as:
- i. ACYC _____
 - ii. March for Life _____
 - iii. Search Retreats _____
 - iv. National Evangelization Team (NET) Retreat _____
2. Does the parish have a Middle School Youth Ministry program separate from the religious education program? _____ If yes:
- a. Middle School Teens have the opportunity to come together:
 - i. Two or more times each week _____
 - ii. Once each week _____
 - iii. One each month _____
 - iv. Less often than one time a month _____
 - b. What percentage of the parish middle school youth participate in the program? _____
 - c. The Middle School YM program includes:
 - i. Catechesis _____
 - ii. Prayer Opportunities
 1. A variety of devotional prayers _____
 2. Adoration _____
 3. Afternoon/Evening of Reflection _____
 4. Retreats
 - a. Daylong _____
 - b. Overnight _____
 - iii. Service Opportunities
 1. Notification of individual opportunities _____
 2. Group service opportunities _____
 3. Family service opportunities _____
 - iv. Community building & fellowship _____
 - d. How are parents invited to be a part of the Middle School youth ministry program?
 - i. Core Team members _____
 - ii. Prayer Team members _____
 - iii. Give talks _____
 - iv. Lead small groups _____
 - e. How are Middle School YM events advertised to the parish? Is everyone in the parish (even those who don't have middle school teens) aware of the activities of the youth ministry program?
 - i. Separate section in bulletin for youth _____
 - ii. Flyers in vestibule _____
 - iii. Written literature in vestibule concerning programs _____
 - iv. Posters with pictures of recent events _____
 - v. Through Catholic School contact methods (where applicable) _____
 - vi. Separate Middle School YM section on parish website _____
 - vii. Posts from parish social media _____

- viii. Other _____
- f. Are MS youth events advertised in languages that reflect the make-up of the community?

- g. Does the youth group participate in Archdiocesan events such as:
 - i. ACYC Jr. _____
 - ii. Pure & Simple _____
- 3. Does the parish have a program of young adult ministry? _____ If yes:
 - a. Describe the target age group for this ministry
 - i. 18-25 _____
 - ii. 21-30 _____
 - iii. 20's & 30's _____
 - iv. Other _____
 - b. Describe the target state for this ministry
 - i. Single _____
 - ii. Engaged couples _____
 - iii. Newly married _____
 - iv. Married with children _____
 - c. What proportion of the young adults of the parish participate in young adult ministry events each year? _____
 - d. Do young adults participate in the planning of the YA events? _____
 - e. How are Young Adult events advertised to the parish? Is everyone in the parish aware of the activities of the Young Adult ministry program?
 - i. Separate section in bulletin for youth _____
 - ii. Flyers in vestibule _____
 - iii. Written literature in vestibule concerning programs _____
 - iv. Posters with pictures of recent events _____
 - v. "Young Adult" section on parish website _____
 - vi. Parish social media posts _____
 - vii. Other _____
 - f. Are Young Adult events advertised in languages that reflect the make-up of the community?

 - g. Does the parish support, advertise, and encourage attendance to regional young adult ministries such as Frassati Society of Mobile, Catholic Young Adults of Montgomery, or Eastern Shore Young Adults? _____
- 4. Do your youth ministry programs have
 - a. their own logos? _____
 - b. their own "branded" names? _____
 - c. their own website? _____
 - d. their own social media accounts? _____

Category – Parish Staff & Leadership

1. Has the pastor shared his vision for parish ministry with the parish staff? _____ Does he revisit that vision on a regular basis with the staff? _____
2. Concerning your parish staff:
 - a. Staff meets for prayer:
 - i. Daily _____
 - ii. Weekly _____
 - iii. Monthly _____
 - b. Staff retreats together:
 - i. Once a year _____
 - ii. Twice a year _____
 - c. What types of parish staff development were offered in the past year:
 - i. Focused discussions at weekly staff meetings _____
 - ii. Review Church documents together _____
 - iii. Workshops attended together _____
 - iv. Archdiocesan office member as speaker _____
 - d. How does the staff meet socially?
 - i. Monthly coffee break _____
 - ii. Friday afternoon break _____
 - iii. Celebrate staff birthdays _____
 - iv. Seasonal dinner out _____
 - v. Special celebrations of special dates of parish _____
3. How often is the parish staff regularly reminded that they are the “first face” of the parish and that they must strive to be welcoming and helpful to all who approach or call, regardless of extenuating situations?
 - a. At weekly staff meetings _____
 - b. Monthly _____
 - c. 2-3 times a year _____
4. Concerning those who work in the front office:
 - a. Is the phone always answered in an upbeat, friendly manner?
 - b. Is the phone answered by someone who is knowledgeable about the responsibilities of each staff member?
 - c. Are those who answer the phone able to reach the parish staff directly and quickly?
 - d. Are those who answer the phone able to communicate in the languages of those within the parish bounds? _____
5. What means are used for communication among parish staff and leadership?
 - a. Group Text _____
 - b. Group Email _____
 - c. Weekly staff meeting _____
6. How quickly and accurately is information disseminated among parish staff and leadership? _____ Do any parish staff members or parish leaders sometimes feel left out of the loop? _____
7. Do all staff members have a written job description? _____
8. Do all staff members understand the responsibilities of the other members of the staff? _____

9. What means of communication does the parish staff use to communicate with the parish family at large? Which is most effective? Which is least effective?
 - a. Announcements at Mass _____
 - b. Bulletin _____
 - c. Monthly newsletter _____
 - d. IRIS or other mass phone service _____
 - e. Flocknote or other mass texting service _____
 - f. Parish website _____
 - g. Facebook _____
 - h. Twitter _____
 - i. Posters/flyers posted in vestibule and parish hall _____
10. Does the parish staff's written communication with the parish family reflect the languages of those in the community? _____
11. Do parish leaders attend scheduled archdiocesan large group meetings on a regular basis? _____
12. Do parish leaders meet at least yearly to discuss long-term ministry goals? _____

Category – Liturgy

1. Does your parish have a Liturgy Committee? _____ If yes:
 - a. How often does the parish liturgy committee meet?
 - i. Weekly _____
 - ii. Monthly _____
 - iii. With each new liturgical season _____
 - b. Does the parish liturgy committee discuss:
 - i. The liturgical and environmental needs of the liturgical season:
Always _____ sometimes _____ never _____
 - ii. Liturgical ministers and their training:
Always _____ sometimes _____ never _____
 - iii. Liturgy logistics such as purifying vessels, placement of items in sanctuary, etc:
Always _____ sometimes _____ never _____
 - iv. Instructions for guest speakers and announcements
Always _____ sometimes _____ never _____
 - v. Other: _____
 - c. What type of training does the committee receive?
 - i. Instruction in Vatican II liturgical documents _____
 - ii. Instruction in post conciliar liturgical documents _____
 - iii. Instruction in the contents of the GIRM _____
 - iv. Training from someone from the Archdiocesan offices _____
 - v. Other: _____
 - d. Is the pastor present at most meetings of the Liturgy Committee? _____
 - e. Is there an avenue for the Liturgy Committee for suggestions concerning content/length for the parish homilists? _____
 - f. Is the music director present for most meetings of the Liturgy Committee? _____

2. Music / Sound:
 - a. What type of formal musical training do the musicians for each Mass possess? _____
 - b. What type of liturgical training do the musicians have?
 - i. Familiarity of Vatican II liturgical documents _____
 - ii. Familiarity of post conciliar liturgical documents _____
 - iii. Instruction in the contents of the GIRM _____
 - iv. Liturgical training at the college level _____
 - c. Does the music reflect the culture of the majority of the Mass goers? _____
 - d. Concerning the quality of the sound in the church, are the following checked at least yearly:
 - i. Can those who speak at the microphones be heard distinctly from every pew? _____
 - ii. Can the instruments and singers be heard in balance throughout the nave? _____
 - iii. Does the speaker located in the “quieting room” bring both spoken word and music to the room? _____
 - e. If someone in the pews had difficulty with the sound quality, would they know who they should talk to have the problem rectified? _____
 - f. Are processes in place to assist those who have hearing difficulties? _____
 - i. Personal amplification systems _____
 - ii. Sign language interpreter _____
3. Lectors, Communion ministers, and altar servers:
 - a. What type of initial training is offered?
 - i. Instruction in the contents of the GIRM _____
 - ii. Instruction in the content of basic liturgical Church documents _____
 - iii. Training conducted by someone from the Archdiocesan offices _____
 - b. Are logistical instructions written out and distributed? _____
 - c. Are lectors and Communion ministers encouraged to attend retraining on at least a yearly basis? _____
 - d. Are altar servers trained to understand their role in the liturgy and trained to conduct their responsibilities well and without continuous supervision? _____
 - e. Are retreats / days of reflection offered to liturgical ministers:
 - i. With each liturgical season _____
 - ii. Yearly _____
4. Do the liturgical ministers of the parish reflect the assembly in age, gender, and ethnic background? _____
5. Does the environment of the church reflect the liturgical season:
 - a. Outside of the church building, as the parishioners walk into the building _____
 - b. Inside the vestibule _____
 - c. In the sanctuary _____
6. Are there enough programs/missalettes/hymnals for everyone in the assembly? _____
7. Do the programs/missalettes/hymnals reflect the language of those in the community? _____
8. Is there time for “sacred silence”:
 - a. After the 1st Reading _____
 - b. After the Psalm _____
 - c. After the 2nd Reading _____
 - d. After Communion _____

9. Are baptisms periodically celebrated within the weekend liturgy? _____
10. In which way is October count for Mass attendance trending over the past 5 years? _____
 - a. Has this trend been discussed by parish leaders? _____

Category – Other

1. What are the predominate cultures of the parish?
2. In what ways are minority cultures welcomed and valued?
 - a. Church interior reflects all cultures of parish _____
 - b. Bulletin translated into necessary languages _____
 - c. Website reflects different languages _____
 - d. Website photos reflect all of the cultures of the parish _____
 - e. Mass and prayer services offered in languages other than English _____
 - f. Religious education offered in multiple languages (all ages) _____
 - g. Information about religious education disseminated in multiple languages _____
 - h. Religious education textbooks reflect predominate languages _____
 - i. Important feast days of minority cultures are celebrated _____
 - j. Majority culture is directly educated about minority culture devotions _____
3. Concerning parishioners who speak English as their Second Language (ESL):
 - a. What opportunities exist in your parish for those who speak ESL to pray in their native language?
 - i. Weekly Mass _____
 - ii. Seasonal prayer services _____
 - iii. Reconciliation services _____
 - iv. Prayer cards in vestibule with multiple languages _____
 - b. What opportunities exist in your parish for those who speak ESL to gather?
 - i. Celebrating feast days important to the culture _____
 - ii. Socials after Mass _____
 - c. Are those who speak ESL directly invited into parish leadership:
 - i. As Catechists _____
 - ii. As Parish Council members _____
 - iii. As Finance Council members _____
 - iv. As leadership in ministerial groups _____
4. Concerning prison ministry:
 - a. Does the parish reach out to parish members in prison? _____
 - b. Does the parish have a prison ministry for the prisons within your parish boundaries? _____
 - c. Parish members invited to pray for those in prison:
 - i. General Intercessions at Sunday Mass _____
 - ii. Parish prayer groups asked specifically to pray for those imprisoned _____
 - iii. Students in RE and YM programs specifically to pray for those imprisoned _____

Final Questions for “Evangelization” section:

1. With regards to the priority of “Evangelization” in your parish, is there something that you are accomplishing at your parish that was not on our list? If so, please list: _____

2. With regards to the priority of “Evangelization” in your parish, what one thing that you do that you are most proud of? _____

3. With regards to the priority of “Evangelization” in your parish, what one activity do you plan to incorporate into your parish this year as a result of this assessment? _____

Priority Two: Strengthen the Family

1. For families with young children:
 - a. How your parish let young parents know that their presence is welcome?
 - i. With a devoted “quieting room” where parents can bring children who are becoming restless that:
 1. Is reserved for the exclusive use of parents with young children _____
 2. Contains missalettes, Mass prayer cards _____
 3. Has good sound quality _____
 - ii. With “Mass bags” with simple, “no sound” activities for toddlers and preschoolers to use during Mass? (Simple Mass book, saint coloring page and a few crayons, Children’s Worship Bulletin-type activity, etc.) _____
 - iii. With nursery provided for special events at the parish and sacrament parent meetings? _____
 - iv. With ongoing support resources to new parents such as Our Sunday Visitor’s “Parent Letters from your Parish”? _____
2. For families with grade school aged children:
 - a. Children’s Liturgy of the Word is offered at Mass at least once each weekend for preschool, kindergarten & First graders? _____
 - b. Parents are encouraged to take part in Religious Education classes:
 - i. Invitation to take part in opening or closing prayer _____
 - ii. As special speakers with witness testimonies _____
 - iii. Invitation to “special” classes that include parents?
 1. “Review” classes where parents compete with children in review games _____
 2. “Mother’s Day” and “Father’s Day” events _____
 3. Parish patron feast day celebrations _____
 - c. Are there evangelical or catechetical opportunities for parents to gather together while their children are in Religious Education classes? _____
 - i. Are these opportunities offered in all of the major languages of those in the community?
3. For families with high school youth:
 - a. Are parents included in youth ministry events:
 - i. Special family themed gatherings _____
 - ii. “Bring Dad night” or “Bring Mom night” _____
 - iii. As special speakers with witness testimonies _____
 - b. Are parents encouraged to participate in service activities with their teens? _____
 - c. Is all information sent to parents reflective of the languages of the parents of the teens? _____
4. For all families and extended families:
 - a. How does the parish help families celebrate life milestones:
 - i. Blessing of expectant moms & dads _____
 - ii. Blessing backpacks at start of school _____

- iii. "Back to school" parish breakfast _____
 - iv. Blessing of keys for new drivers _____
 - v. Blessing of graduates _____
 - vi. Resources given to new grandparents with ideas of how to share their faith _____
 - vii. Other milestone celebrations _____
- b. Are meetings and activities at the parish scheduled with families in mind?
- i. At times convenient for working parents _____
 - ii. Offering simple dinner _____
 - iii. Offer nursery or welcome young children _____
 - iv. Scheduled after checking calendars of popular activities such as dance, CYO sports, band concerts, etc. _____
 - v. Are parents a part of the planning process for the meetings? _____
- c. Does the parish provide opportunities for families of similar stages (parents of toddlers, parents of elementary school children, parents of teens) to meet and interact?
- i. "Special invitation" breakfast after Mass _____
 - ii. Workshops of special interest to families with special needs _____
 - iii. Young Moms play dates in nursery _____
 - iv. Speakers on drug abuse, pornography, and other subjects _____
 - v. College preparation night – highlighting Catholic colleges and Catholic student centers of popular colleges _____
- d. Does the parish encourage families to practice seasonal devotions through:
- i. Blessing of Advent Wreath _____
 - ii. Provide information about Epiphany house blessings _____
 - iii. Publicly scheduled rosaries during October and May _____
 - iv. Stations of the Cross prayed with prayers directed towards young people _____
- e. Does the parish encourage families to develop family devotions in ways such as:
- i. Providing mealtime prayer "cubes" _____
 - ii. Distributing copies of "Magnificat" or other prayer books to all parishioners _____
 - iii. Advertising website link for Liturgy of the Hours _____
 - iv. Having families witness to their own practices of family evening prayer _____
 - v. Providing small holy water bottles and offer suggestions for its use _____
 - vi. Teaching parents about blessing their children _____
- f. Has your parish offered "family friendly" service opportunities in the last year (not sponsored by RE or YM)? _____
- g. Has the parish organized a family mission trip? _____
- h. Are listings of online resources of interest to parents published in the bulletin on a regular basis? _____
- i. Does the parish celebrate a "no meetings week" once a year when no activities other than Mass and sacraments are offered at the parish so that families can have time to spend together at home? _____
- j. Does your parish offer additional resources to non-Catholic parents, explaining Catholic practices? _____
- k. Does your parish have organizations (or encourage participation in events) which support the family, such as:

- i. Men of St. Joseph _____
- ii. Daughters of Mary _____
- iii. Knights & Ladies of Columbus _____
- iv. Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver _____
- v. Men of St. Joseph Outback _____
- vi. Archdiocesan Conference Series _____

Final Questions for "Strengthen the Family" section:

1. With regards to the priority of "Strengthening the Family" in your parish, is there something that you are accomplishing at your parish that was not on our list? If so, please list: _____

2. With regards to the priority of "Strengthening the Family" in your parish, what one thing that you do that you are most proud of? _____

3. With regards to the priority of "Strengthening the Family" in your parish, what one activity do you plan to incorporate into your parish this year as a result of this assessment? _____

Priority Three: Serve the Needs of Neighbors

1. Parishioners are made aware of all of the community services which the parish sponsors:
 - a. By highlighting one ministry each week in the parish bulletin _____
 - b. By an annual “ministry fair” where specific service ministries are highlighted and explained?

 - c. By speakers at Mass _____
 - d. By regular updates of the status of parish pantry _____
2. Are newcomers given a pamphlet outlining all of the service ministries of the parish with contact information? _____
 - a. Is this pamphlet available in all of the major languages within the parish bounds?
3. Are newcomers specifically encouraged to become involved in the parish through service projects?

4. Are all parishioners familiar with the Catholic Charities appeal and realize where the funds are distributed? _____
5. Does the parish have a social outreach effort such as a St. Vincent de Paul chapter or other similar group? _____
6. Does your parish have a food pantry distribution for those in need? _____
7. Does the parish participate in Cross Catholic Outreach’s *Box of Joy* program, or another outreach during the season of Advent? _____
8. Does the parish participate in Catholic Relief Services’ *Rice Bowl* program, or another outreach during the season of Lent? _____
9. Does the parish receive updates of their participation at the conclusion of seasonal service opportunities? _____
10. Does the parish youth ministry have a service component or regular service opportunities? _____
11. Are intergenerational service opportunities sponsored and/or advertised by the parish? _____
12. Has the parish “adopted” a parish in need, perhaps a mission parish in the archdiocese or a financially challenged parish oversees? _____

Final Questions for “Serve the Needs of Neighbors” section:

1. With regards to the priority of “Serving the Needs of Others” in your parish, is there something that you are accomplishing at your parish that was not on our list? If so, please list: _____

2. With regards to the priority of “Serving the Needs of Others” in your parish, what one thing that you do that you are most proud of? _____

3. With regards to the priority of “Serving the Needs of Others” in your parish, what one activity do you plan to incorporate into your parish this year as a result of this assessment? _____

Priority Four: Encourage Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

1. How are parishioners informed about the Archdiocesan Vocations Office?
 - a. Name and contact information of Director is in bulletin _____
 - b. Informational flyer is displayed in vestibule _____
 - c. By Director of Vocations speaking at weekend Masses _____
2. Is written information regarding the Archdiocesan vocations Office offered in all of the major languages of the community? _____
3. Has your parish invited the Director of Vocations to enjoy meals with parish families whose children show signs of a vocation? _____
4. Does your parish advertise the archdiocesan discernment groups in your area—DDP (Discerning Diocesan Priesthood), DYV (Discerning Your Vocation) & DIP (Discerning Intentionally Priesthood)?
 - a. Through the bulletin _____
 - b. By posting flyers in vestibule _____
 - c. By directly contacting young men (and their parents) _____
5. In the parish:
 - a. Does the parish have a vocations cup or cross that is sent home with different families throughout the year to pray for vocations? _____
 - b. Does your parish pray regularly for vocations in the General Intercessions at Mass? _____
 - c. Is vocation information listed on your parish website? _____
 - d. Does your parish advertise the ordinations of the Archdiocese? _____
 - e. Does your parish bring groups to the ordinations of our priests? _____
 - f. Are members of religious orders invited to the parish to speak? _____
 - g. Are seminarian prayer cards easily accessible to all who come in to the church building?

 - h. Does your parish have an Appreciation Breakfast or other outings for your altar servers at least once a year? _____
 - i. Does the parish have a vocation fair? _____
 - j. Does your parish encourage people to personally tell young men that they think that he would make a good priest? _____
 - k. Does your parish encourage people to personally tell young women/men that they think that she/he would make an excellent religious? _____
 - l. Does your parish offer at least one Mass per month for the intention of “More answered vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Archdiocese of Mobile?”
6. Concerning the children/youth of the parish:
 - a. Does the religious education program hold a day focused on vocations? _____
 - b. Does your religious education program include Vocations Awareness lesson plans at each grade level? _____
 - c. Are youth given opportunities to shadow people in ministry in the parish?
 - i. Communion to the Sick _____
 - ii. Altar Care _____

- iii. Parish Council members _____
 - iv. Catechists _____
 - v. Liturgy Board members _____
 - vi. Youth Ministry _____
 - vii. Service to the Poor _____
- d. Are teens and young adults actively recruited to serve in liturgical ministries:
- i. Altar server _____
 - ii. Lector _____
 - iii. Minister of Hospitality _____
 - iv. Music ministry _____
 - v. Other liturgical ministries _____
- e. Does your school have an annual vocation program? _____
- f. Has your school invited the Director of Vocations to spend a day on campus? _____
- g. Does your parish sponsor any discernment groups for young people to regularly come together to learn about vocations and prayerfully consider together what plans the Lord might have for them?
- i. Group for women to consider the religious life? _____
 - ii. Group for men to consider the priesthood? _____
 - iii. Co-Ed group to consider the topic of “vocation” more broadly? _____
- h. Does your parish sponsor any trips to help young people understand the different vocations and more deeply consider them as God’s plan in their own life?
- i. Any trips to seminary or to spend time with seminarians or different priests around the Archdiocese? _____
 - ii. Any trips to different religious houses to meet the sisters/brothers/nuns/monks and experience a bit of their day to day? _____
7. With regards to our seminarians:
- a. Does the parish pray for specific seminarians?
 - i. Parish bulletin – highlighting a seminarian a week and asking for prayers _____
 - ii. General Intercessions _____
 - iii. Parish prayer groups “adopting” a seminarian _____
 - b. Does the parish display the seminarian poster in a prominent place? _____
 - c. Have seminarians visited with your school students? _____
 - d. Have seminarians visited with your RE program students? _____
 - e. Does your parish host a dinner for the seminarians of the archdiocese, inviting all to attend and fundraising for them? _____
 - f. Do groups from your parish send greeting cards to the seminarians for the archdiocese?
 - i. Youth ministry _____
 - ii. Religious Education _____
 - iii. Prayer groups _____
 - iv. Senior group _____
 - g. How are parishioners informed about the Burse Club/SOS Program and how they can join?
 - i. Announcements at Mass _____
 - ii. Bulletin _____
 - iii. Greeters at door after Mass _____

- iv. Mass email _____
 - v. Letter through postal service _____
8. With regards to vocation awareness:
- a. Does your priest(s) share his discernment story with the parish at least once each year? _____
 - b. Does your priest(s) preach on the topic of “vocations” at least once a year? _____
 - c. Does the parish regularly offer appreciation gatherings for ordained and religious who work with the parish? _____
 - d. How does the parish encourage vocations conversations within the family?
 - i. Homilies _____
 - ii. Vocation fairs for teens and parents _____
 - iii. Information emailed to parents after a “vocation night” youth ministry gathering _____
 - e. Does your parish have a “Vocations Club” of some sort, where parishioners are encouraged to spiritually adopt/pray for our seminarians and the young women from our Archdiocese who are currently in formation for the religious life?
 - i. Have families with children at home volunteered to play a seminarian/religious aspirant prayer card in their home and pray for them daily as a family? _____
 - ii. Has your Club organized any Rosaries or Holy Hours for all of the parish to come together and pray for answered vocations? _____
 - f. Parishioners are encouraged to talk to young people about vocations:
 - i. Through reminders during homilies _____
 - ii. Through the bulletin – “Have you talked to someone about vocations lately?” _____
 - g. Does your parish bulletin include brief articles or reflections on vocations on a regular basis? _____
 - h. Does your parish prominently provide materials (pamphlets, booklets, books, etc.) for young men and women who are considering a call to the priesthood or religious life? _____

Final Questions for Encourage Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life section:

1. With regards to the priority of “Encouraging Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life” in your parish, is there something that you are accomplishing at your parish that was not on our list? If so, please list: _____

2. With regards to the priority of “Encouraging Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life” in your parish, what one thing that you do that you are most proud of? _____

3. With regards to the priority of “Encouraging Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life” in your parish, what one activity do you plan to incorporate into your parish this year as a result of this assessment? _____
