

2017 Annual Parish Pastoral Report

From the Pastor's Desk



An annual *Parish Pastoral Report* is submitted to the archdiocese each year to provide specified statistical data to our Archbishop to help him identify current pastoral issues and set priorities for the future. Our *Parish Pastoral Council* also reviews these statistics to help us assess the current state of the parish and plan for the future.

Each year I provide the parish at large with this summary with the hope that prayerful reflection on the raw data helps each parish organization — and each parishioner — in setting priorities and taking steps to make our parish a better sign of Christ's presence in our community.

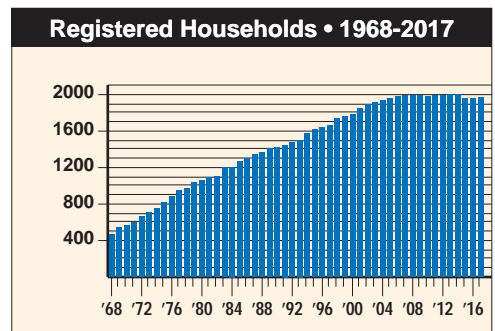
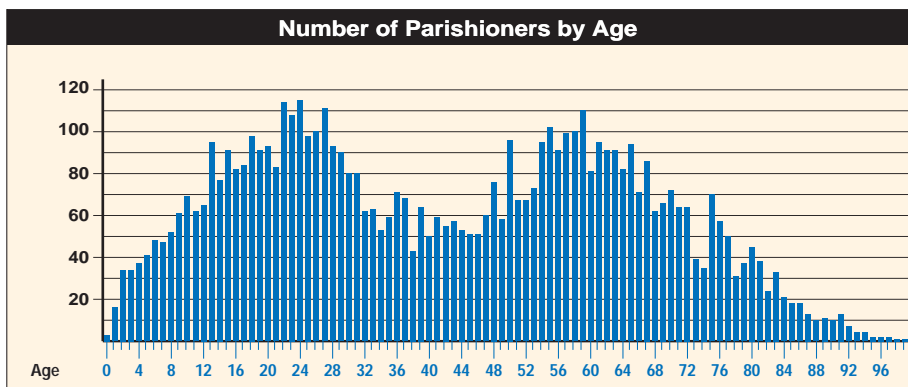
The statistics continue to show our need to enter more deeply into the *New Evangelization* preached by recent Popes, including Pope Francis. Toward that end, in 2017 we committed to the *Alpha* program which has enlivened many parishes throughout the world. That commitment continues in 2018.

Throughout 2017, planning for, and beginning to implement, the parish's year-long Golden Jubilee celebration of our founding spawned additional ministries and activities. The renewal of physical facilities — a refurbished Religious Education Building and a renovated Church Hall Kitchen — was intended to provide the environment for activities that deepen our spirituality and build community.

We have been blessed that Father Linus Nangwele's ministry here continues, and that Father Philip Agber, C.S.Sp. continues to assist the parish in celebrating our weekend liturgies. In May, 2017, Deacon Bill Iacobellis retired from ministry due to health concerns. But we were gifted at the beginning of Advent when Deacon Rich Napoli was assigned to ministry here.

As you review this report, pray with me that the data inspire us to deepen our individual and parish commitment to build up the Kingdom in our parish and in our homes. At the same time, we must remember the tremendous joy in heaven over *one* sinner who repents, so our mission is not in "better numbers," but in a deeper spirituality so that we become better witnesses to Christ for those who are looking for the way, the truth and the life.

Parish Population (as of Dec. 31 st)	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total registered parishioners.....	6,250	6,079	6,012	6,021
Total registered households.....	2,001	1,957	1,949	1,960
Estimate the unregistered Catholic families .	250	250	250	250
Weekend Mass attendance (October count) .	1,302	1,186	1,108	1,059
Households donating at least once a month.	680	608	635	605



From the parish's foundation in 1968 the number of parish families grew steadily until 2007, when it began to plateau as families moving into the parish replaced long-term parishioners moving to smaller homes or warmer climates. Now there is little variation year-to-year.

Our average age is 42.2 — two and one-half months older than last year — but the age chart at the bottom of the first column does not show a "normal distribution." Young adults going out on their own or beginning a new family cannot afford to live within the parish boundaries, leaving a relatively small number of parishioners in their late 20's through the early 40's. Couples moving in are generally older than that, and come into the parish with young children. Since 2001, our average age has moved steadily from 35 to 42.2.

One of the petitions in our Jubilee Prayer is: For what has been achieved, we give thanks to God; for the work that still remains, we ask God's help. We hope throughout 2018 as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the parish, our prayers, ministries and activities will lead to an ongoing spiritual renewal of the parish. If our parish and our spirituality is truly alive, it must grow.

We can start with increased Mass attendance. Not simply from programs such as Alpha, but as a result of personal invitations from parishioners in the pews. We will be hosting our fifth *Global Leadership Summit* in August, and I encourage more parishioners to attend — we are all called to be leaders — leading others to Christ — and this program can help develop skills to help actualize potential leadership in parishioners.

2017 Parish Pastoral Report *(continued)*

Administration of Sacraments

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sacraments of Initiation				
Baptism.....	32	38	48	31
Confirmation.....	72	79	69	63
First Eucharist.....	64	67	53	64
Sacrament of the Sick				
Total Anointings for the year.....	74	111	65	52
Matrimony				
Both Catholic.....	7	9	10	5
Catholic/Baptized.....	5	6	1	2
Catholic/Non-baptized.....	0	0	2	1
TOTAL.....	12	15	13	8
Funerals				
Total funerals for the year.....	47	51	54	53

Parish School Age Population

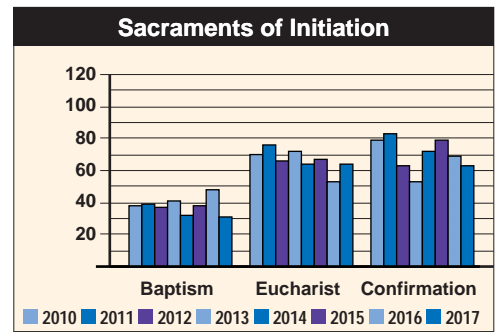
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Catholic Schools				
St. Katharine Drexel, Holland.....	26	18	10	11
Nativity of Our Lord, Warminster.....	7	5	10	12
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Southampton.	10	8	9	6
Private Catholic Elementary.....	11	6	5	8
Diocesan High Schools.....	26	25	20	18
Private Catholic High Schools.....	20	21	15	15
Other Catholic Schools.....	7	6	6	6
TOTAL.....	107	89	76	76
Public or Non-Catholic Private Schools				
Elementary (K - 6).....	404	405	373	372
Junior High (7 - 8).....	144	151	157	156
Senior High (9 - 12).....	341	320	317	318
TOTAL.....	889	876	847	846

Parish Religious Education

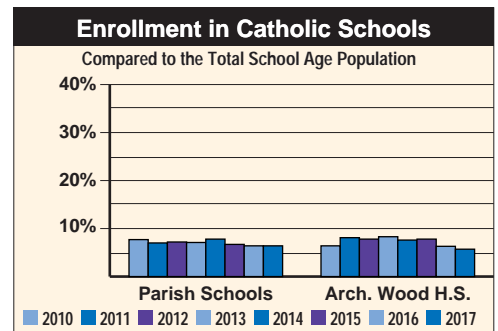
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Pre-School (Sunday Church School).....	10	0	0	0
Elementary (K - 6).....	364	355	325	305
Junior High (7 - 8).....	30	20	20	14
High School (9 - 12).....	8	10	14	12
Total Catechists.....	31	32	31	26

Adult Faith Formation

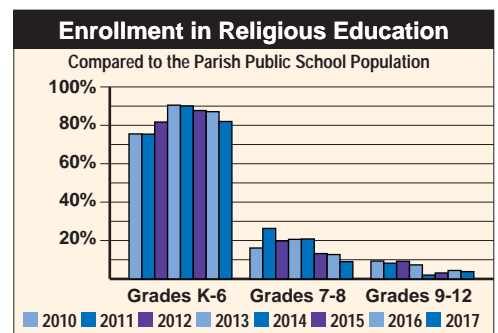
The Pastoral Report submitted to the Archdiocese also includes adult faith formation programs with attendance estimates. The programs include our Baptismal Preparation Program, programs for the parents of our First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation candidates. Programs offered during 2017 to the parish as a whole through our Adult Faith Formation Ministry included: *33 Days to Morning Glory*, *Ephesians: Discover Your Inheritance*, and *The Sunday Readings*. During the fall, the entire focus was on the *Alpha* program.



The consistently higher numbers for those receiving First Eucharist and Confirmation than for those being baptized reflect the figures in the age chart.



The above enrollment figures are for the three neighboring parish schools attended by our parishioners, and our nearest Archdiocesan high school. Enrollment figures for those attending private Catholic schools and academies are estimates. The percentage of elementary school students attending Catholic schools seems to be stabilizing, after years of decline; the percentage of high school students is now declining.



The percentages in the above chart are based on the figures given in the report. Since our Religious Ed Program begins in 1st grade, our grades 1-6 enrollment is being compared to the total students in grades K-6, thus, for those grades the actual percentages are higher than indicated. Enrollment drops significantly after Confirmation in sixth grade.