

2016 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 show our need to enter more deeply into the *New Evangelization* preached by recent Popes, including Pope Francis. Toward that end, we plan to enter into a parish-wide commitment to the *Alpha* program which has enlivened many parishes throughout the world.

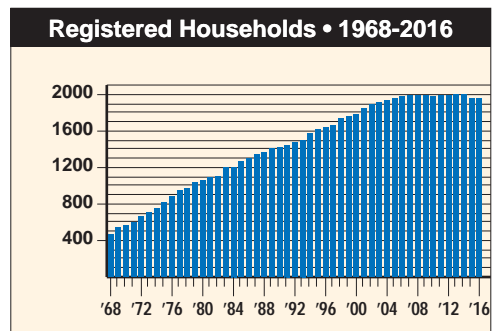
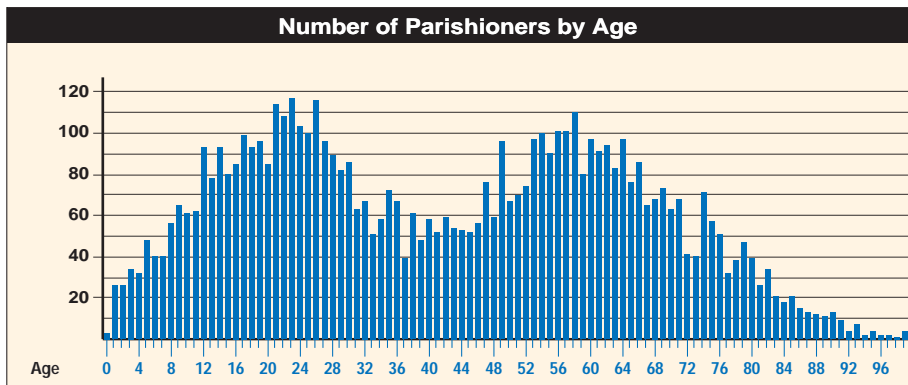
We are preparing to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of the founding of our parish, which occurs in May, 2018, and we want the celebration to be about *yesterday, today, and tomorrow* — with an emphasis on *tomorrow* — where we are going. We believe that with prayer, service, and ministry to one another, we can deepen our faith, our relationship with Jesus, and our ability to share both with others.

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.

We have been blessed to learn that Father Linus Nangwele's ministry here will continue through 2018. Rev. Philip Agber, C.S.Sp. continues to assist the parish in celebrating our weekend liturgies. The periodic visits of Father Joseph Sserugo, AJ, from Uganda connect us in a special way with the Universal Church.

Parish Population (as of Dec. 31st)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total registered parishioners.....	6,279	6,250	6,079	6,012
Total registered households.....	1,996	2,001	1,957	1,949
Estimate the unregistered Catholic families .	250	250	250	250
Weekend Mass attendance (October count) .	1,354	1,302	1,186	1,092
Households donating at least once a month.	683	680	608	596



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 parish members moving to smaller homes or warmer climates. We are now noticing a slight decline.

Our average age is 42.0 — a little less than half year 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 42.0.

In August, 2016, our parish hosted the *Global Leadership Summit* at Archbishop Wood High School for the third time. We continue to host the *Summit*, with the goal of encouraging more parishioners to participate, and to "lead in place" — in their homes, in our parish and in society — we are all called to be leaders.

During 2016 three of our parishioners became Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Ambassadors and brought to our parish *Helping Hands*, a hands-on volunteer meal-packaging program for vulnerable children, women and men in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Our Ambassadors will continue to enlighten us to global needs, and empower us to assist.

Also in 2016, planning began for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the parish's founding — St. Vincent de Paul parish was founded on May 28, 1968.

2016 Parish Pastoral Report *(continued)*

Administration of Sacraments

Sacraments of Initiation

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Baptism.....	41	32	38	48
Confirmation.....	53	72	79	69
First Eucharist.....	72	64	67	53

Sacrament of the Sick

Total Anointings for the year.....	74	74	111	65
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Matrimony

Both Catholic.....	4	7	9	10
Catholic/Baptized.....	5	5	6	1
Catholic/Non-baptized.....	3	0	0	2
TOTAL.....	12	12	15	13

Funerals

Total funerals for the year.....	58	47	51	54
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Parish School Age Population

Catholic Schools

St. Katharine Drexel, Holland.....	27	26	18	11
Nativity of Our Lord, Warminster.....	7	7	5	10
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Southampton.	10	10	8	9
Private Catholic Elementary.....	6	11	6	5
Diocesan High Schools.....	33	26	25	20
Private Catholic High Schools.....	22	20	21	15
Other Catholic Schools.....	6	7	6	6
TOTAL.....	111	107	89	76

Public or Non-Catholic Private Schools

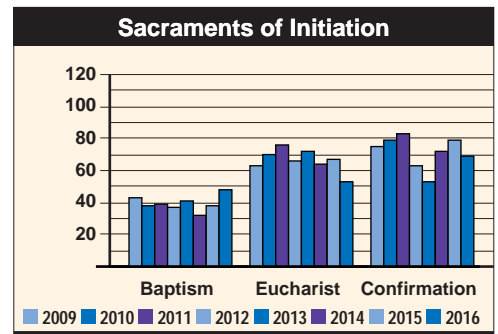
Elementary (K - 6).....	409	404	405	373
Junior High (7 - 8).....	170	144	151	157
Senior High (9 - 12).....	341	341	320	317
TOTAL.....	920	889	876	847

Parish Religious Education

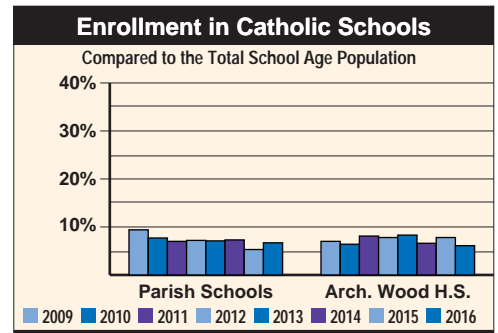
Pre-School (Sunday Church School).....	14	10	0	0
Elementary (K - 6).....	370	364	355	325
Junior High (7 - 8).....	35	30	20	20
High School (9 - 12).....	25	8	10	14
Total Catechists.....	38	31	32	31

Adult Faith Formation

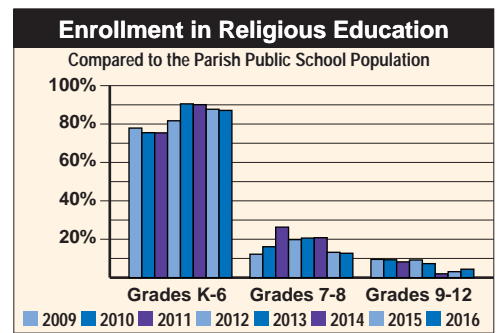
The Pastoral Report submitted to the Archdiocese also includes adult faith formation programs with attendance estimates. The programs include our Baptismal Preparation Program, programs for the parents of our First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation candidates. Programs offered during 2016 to the parish as a whole through our Adult Faith Formation Ministry included: *33 Days to Morning Glory*, *Acts: the Spread of the Kingdom*, *Divine Mercy in the Jubilee Year of Mercy*, *The Gospel According to Luke*, and *The Sunday Readings*.



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 seems to be stabilizing, after years of decline; the percentage of high school students has remained fairly steady.



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.