

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 strengthen 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, evangelization, formation, and stewardship.

Ministry models: *On Mission* is exploring new structures for ministry to best use our available resources. These include inter-parish collaboration, ministry teams serving more than one parish, and multiple parishes led by one pastor.

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:

April 2015- Aug. 16 - Period of Prayer and Study
 Sept. 2016 - Consultation process begins in parishes
 Dec. 2017 - Recommendations to Bishop Zubik
 Early 2018 - Implementation begins

Learn more: ***OnMissionChurchAlive.org***

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: 199

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
Projected active priests in 2025:		112

Due to decreased participation and rising costs, the percent of parishes running operational deficits has increased in the past three years from 32 percent to about 50 percent.