

# Using the Indicators of Parish Vitality with Parish Leadership to Evaluate Parish Life

Diocesan Research and Planning Office

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This worksheet is for the use of a parish leadership team: the pastor, staff (if present), and the pastoral council. The purpose is to evaluate parish life in order to effect changes that help the parish grow in vitality. While this worksheet was originally developed during the Parish Consultations Process as a companion to the parish-wide survey, it is valuable as a stand-alone tool in developing or modifying a parish pastoral plan.

The process is very simple. First, each member of the leadership team should read the Indicators of Parish Vitality. Second, using the worksheet each member rates the parish in each of the sections of the Indicators. These steps should be completed in private and sufficient time for reflection allowed. Then all members come together to share their perspectives with other in an effort to achieve consensus. For more information on working toward consensus, see the companion article "Consensus, Decision-Making and Parish Leadership" which is available on the diocesan website: [www.rockforddiocese.org](http://www.rockforddiocese.org).

As the parish team strives toward consensus, please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- complete honesty is valued and essential for authentic parish renewal; and
- it is necessary to be open to, and respectful of, varying perspectives, keeping in mind the goal of improving the spiritual life of the parish.

Please use the following scale for rating purposes:

1. **Poor** - parish exhibits very few of the indicators; considerable improvement is needed
2. **Fair** - parish lives out some of the indicators; many still need to be implemented
3. **Good** - most of the indicators are active in parish, yet there is room for moderate improvement
4. **Excellent** - a model for other parishes in the area, only minimal improvement needed

## **I. Worship**

Celebration of the Liturgy [ ]

Celebration of the Sacraments [ ]

Spiritual Growth Programs [ ]

What do you find to be the particular strengths in the way worship occurs in the parish?

How could the parish improve its worship?

## **II. Community**

Hospitality [ ]

Stewardship [ ]

Evangelization [ ]

Leadership [ ]

How is your parish especially effective in building Christian community?

How could the parish improve its community building aspect?

### **III. Service**

- Within Parish [ ]
- Local Community [ ]
- Beyond the Local Community [ ]

How is the parish particularly strong in serving others?

How might your parish improve its service to others?

### **IV. Education/Formation**

- Total Parish Education [ ]
- Religious Education [ ]
- Catholic School [ ]
- Adult Education [ ]
- RCIA [ ]
- Youth Ministry [ ]
- Ecumenism [ ]

What are the educational strengths in your parish?

How can education in the parish be improved?