



INTO THE DEEP

8 Takeaways from *Our Current Reality* in the Diocese of Madison

SUMMARY: WE FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES, WHICH REQUIRES A SIGNIFICANT AND BOLD SOLUTION.



1 - GENERAL DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The total population across the Diocese is growing.

- Between 2010 & 2021 across the Diocese:
 - Total population grew 8.5% from 1,013,927 to 1,099,746
 - In 2021, Millennials comprised the largest generational cohort (24.2%)
- 5-Year Population Projections (2026) across the Diocese:
 - Total population will grow 4.3% to 1,146,641
 - White population will grow 1.8% to 933,383
 - Persons of color (using the U.S. Census definition) population will grow 16.1% to 129,529
 - Hispanic population will grow 16.8% to 83,729
 - Generation Z will comprise the largest generational cohort (24.1%)
- Dane Co. continues to see the greatest population growth, with growth elsewhere along major roads and in population centers
- Many rural areas are seeing stagnation or decline

3 - MASS ATTENDANCE TRENDS

Fewer and fewer people are attending Mass.

- Between 2013 & 2021:
 - Mass attendance declined 39.8% from 53,660 to 32,298
 - Mass attendance as a percentage of total registered parishioners declined from 32.6% to 23.8%
 - Church Facility Utilization declined from 39.1% to 23.5%
- Between pre-Covid Years 2013 & 2019:
 - Mass attendance declined 16.3% from 53,660 to 44,921
 - Mass attendance as a percentage of total registered parishioners declined from 32.6% to 31.4%
 - Church Facility Utilization declined from 39.1% to 32.7%
- Fewer and fewer people have been attending Mass for many years; COVID simply accelerated this decline.

2 - CATHOLIC DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

We are losing people, especially our younger people; and we are aging.

- Between 2013 & 2021, total registered Catholic:
 - Parishioners declined 17.3% to 138,068
 - Households declined 16.4% to 54,616
 - Parishioners ages 0-17 declined 29.7% from 42,925 to 30,171
 - Parishioners ages 18-40 declined 11.8% from 44,863 to 39,591
 - Parishioners ages 41-64 declined 23.9% from 50,547 to 38,473
 - Parishioners ages 65+ grew 4.0% from 28,678 (17.2%) to 29,833 (comprising 21.6% of the total Catholic population)
 - The % of Catholics vs. overall population declined from 14.2% to 11.1%

4 - SACRAMENTAL TRENDS

Significantly fewer people are receiving Sacraments.

- Between 2013 & 2021:
 - Overall Sacraments declined 25.4% from 8,336 to 6,216
 - Baptisms declined 39.3% from 1,871 to 1,136
 - First Communion declined 39.8% from 2,485 to 1,495
 - Confirmations declined 9.3% from 1,703 to 1,544
 - Weddings declined 21.4% from 570 to 448
 - Funerals declined 6.7% from 1,707 to 1,593
- Between 2013 & 2019 (pre-COVID) Sacraments declined 16.2%
- We have significantly more funerals than baptisms across the Diocese
- Between 1960 and 2021:
 - Infant Baptisms declined 79.7% from 5,597 to 1,136
 - The total number of Weddings declined 63.1% from 1,214 to 448



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5 - YOUTH FORMATION TRENDS

Faith Formation enrollment is in a free fall, while School enrollment is holding relatively steady.

- Between 2010 & 2021 across the Diocese:
 - The total population of children ages 0-14 declined 2.5% to 187,432
 - By 2026, it is projected to grow 2.6% to 192,297
- Between 2013 and 2021, faith formation enrollment among K-12th grade students declined 48.3% from 15,522 to 8,019
 - Between 2010 and 2019 (pre-COVID), faith formation enrollment among K-12th grade students declined 37.2%
- Since 2010/2011 school-year, Pre-K to grade 12 Catholic school enrollment declined 15.4% from 7,798 to 6,600; it is projected to be at 6,442 in 2026/27
- Since 1965, Catholic school (K-8) enrollment has declined 74.4% from 20,052 to 5,132

7 - GIVING TRENDS

People who give donate about 2% of their income; with fewer older people giving more these days.

- In 2021, 52.9% of all registered households gave to the parish and/or Diocese
 - 17.4% of all registered households accounted for approx. 80% of all giving
- In 2021, giving comprised 2.1% of Median Household Income
 - *Silent Generation*: gave an average of 2.2% of their income
 - *Baby Boomers*: gave an average of 2.3% of their income
 - *Gen X*: gave an average of 1.5% of their income
 - *Millennials*: gave an average of 1.2% of their income
 - *Gen Z*: gave an average of 0.8% of their income
- Since 2012, the % of *Silent Generation*, *Boomers*, & *Gen X* givers have declined
- The offertory revenue trend is flat and not reflective of an increase in median income growth, or declining Mass attendance/registered parishioner trends.
 - Is this pattern really sustainable long-term?

6 - PRIEST TRENDS

We have significantly fewer priests than in the past, but we project to be relatively stable into the future.

- Since 1960, the total number of:
 - Priests in the Diocese declined by 63.3% from 430 to 158
 - Diocesan Priests (Active & Retired) declined 25.3% from 182 to 136
 - Religious & Extern Priests declined 91.1% from 248 to 22
- While priest numbers should remain relatively stable into the future, even at present there are not enough to maintain the status quo.
 - Plus, priests are forced to become pastors within 1-2 years of ordination;
 - Existing structures often prevent the Diocese from being able to assign priests to parishes/ministries according to their gifts and talents; and
 - Many priests have insufficient time for pastoral ministry.

8 - FINANCIAL TRENDS

At present, we are facing financial challenges impacting our mission and our employees.

- Across the Diocese our parishes are averaging a \$34K operating deficit (\$68K if they support Catholic schools; \$4K if they do not)
- 61 parishes operate with a net deficit. Of these, 38 contribute to Catholic schools.
- For those parishes investing in Catholic schools, an average of 48.5% of their offertory is contributed to the school annually.
- The diocesan average percent investment in admin/ministries is trending down while investment in facilities/buildings is trending up.
- Many parishes and schools struggle with employee compensation and benefits.