



## CARA'S TYPICAL SURVEY FORMAT AND FREQUENTLY USED QUESTIONS

This document presents what a typical Parish Life Survey looks like, including its typical length and some questions typically used by parishes. THIS DOCUMENT IS COPYRIGHTED and is the property of CARA. The questions below may not be copied or used without the express permission of CARA.

*This questionnaire will help us to better understand the needs and concerns of [Parish Name] parishioners and to plan for the future. Your individual response is extremely important. Please respond by marking an "X" in the appropriate boxes below.*

*Please use these responses for the questions below.*

**1=Poor**

**3=Good**

**2=Fair**

**4=Excellent**

**Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable**

*Please **evaluate** these aspects of parish life.*

**1 2 3 4**

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 1. [Parish Name] Parish overall
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 2. Sense of community within the parish
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 3. Masses and liturgies in general
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 4. Vision provided by parish leaders
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 5. Efforts to educate parishioners in the faith
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 6. Encouragement to share your time, talents and treasure with the parish
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 7. Outreach to and advocacy for those in need
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 8. Spreading the Gospel/evangelizing

*Please **evaluate** the following persons and programs.*

**1 2 3 4**

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 9. Leadership provided by the pastor
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 10. Friendliness of the parish office staff
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 11. Children's religious education programs
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 12. Youth ministry
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 13. Faith formation for adults
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 14. Social activities

*Please **evaluate** parish outreach to these groups.*

**1 2 3 4**

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 15. Elementary school age children
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 16. Middle school age children
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 17. High school age children
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 18. Young adults (ages 18 to 35)
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 19. Adults (ages 36 to 64)
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 20. Senior citizens (ages 65 and older)
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 21. Single adults
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 22. Married couples
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 23. Those divorced or separated
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 24. Widows or widowers
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 25. Single parents
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 26. Those sick or homebound
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 27. Those grieving
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 28. Former or inactive parishioners
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 29. Visitors and guests

*Using the numbers for items 15-29 above, to which three groups should the parish give **most priority** for outreach?*

30. \_\_\_\_ 31. \_\_\_\_ 32. \_\_\_\_

*Please **evaluate** these areas of weekend Masses overall for the Mass you most regularly attend.*

**1 2 3 4**

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 33. Hospitality or sense of welcome
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 34. Liturgical decorations and environment
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 35. Music
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 36. Homilies
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 37. Weekend Mass schedule

*Please **evaluate** parish efforts to:*

**1 2 3 4**

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 38. Communicate with parishioners
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 39. Welcome new parishioners
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 40. Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 41. Help you practice gospel values in your daily life
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 42. Help parishioners in crisis or distress
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 43. Invite you to participate in parish ministries
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 44. Manage parish finances

*Please use these responses for the questions below.*

**1=No Priority**

**3=Medium Priority**

**2=Low Priority**

**4=High Priority**

**Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable**

*What **priority** do you give the following for the parish?*

**1 2 3 4**

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 45. Developing a parish sense of community
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 46. Children's religious education/formation
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 47. Formation for youth after Confirmation
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 49. Youth ministry
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 49. Young adult ministry
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 50. Adult faith formation
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 51. More opportunities for devotions such as rosaries and Eucharistic Adoration
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 52. Outreach to inactive Catholics
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 53. Ministry to the divorced and separated
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 54. Ministry to those grieving
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 55. Visitation of the sick and homebound
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 56. Providing parish services for the needy

*Using the numbers for items 45-56 above, to which three needs should the parish give **most priority**?*

57. \_\_\_\_ 58. \_\_\_\_ 59. \_\_\_\_

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=None or Not at All

3=Somewhat

2=Only a Little

4=Very or Very Much

Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

How much do the following **attract** you to this parish?

1 2 3 4

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 60. Its open, welcoming spirit  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 61. The quality of the liturgy  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 62. The quality of the preaching  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 63. Its religious education/formation for children and youth  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 64. Its faith formation for adults  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 65. Its opportunities for spiritual growth  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 66. Its commitment to social justice and peace  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 67. The sense of belonging you feel here

How much do the following **prevent** you from being more involved in parish life, such as being more involved in its activities, programs, and ministries?

1 2 3 4

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 68. Your busy schedule or lack of time  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 69. Lack of child care  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 70. Health problems or a disability  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 71. I have not felt welcomed at the parish  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 72. I had an unpleasant experience with a parish staff member  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 73. I am uncomfortable coming to activities because I do not know anyone there  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 74. There are not any programs or activities that interest me  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 75. I am already as involved as I'd like to be

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=Strongly Disagree

3=Somewhat Agree

2=Somewhat Disagree

4=Strongly Agree

Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

Please **respond** to the following.

1 2 3 4

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 76. I have a personal relationship with God that I nurture through my prayer life  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 77. When I attend Mass here, I leave feeling closer to God  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 78. I feel included in parish life  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 79. I feel well informed about what goes on in our parish  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 80. I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 81. Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making in the parish  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 82. My confidence in Church leaders has been shaken by the recent abuse scandal

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=Never or rarely

4=Almost every week

2=Once or twice a year

5=Once a week

3=Once or twice a month

6=More than once a week

Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable

How **often** do you do the following?

1 2 3 4 5 6

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 83. Pray or have a conversation with God  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 84. Read the Bible  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 85. Attend Mass  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 86. Attend a parish function besides Mass  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 87. Volunteer/help at the parish  
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 88. Invite someone to attend a parish worship service or activity

89. Years you have attended this parish?

**Leave blank if this is not your regular parish. Write "1" if one year or less.**

Please answer "**yes**" or "**no**" to the following questions.

**Yes No**

- ☐ ☐ 90. Are you registered in this parish?  
☐ ☐ 91. Is this parish your primary place of worship?  
☐ ☐ 92. Have any of your children attended religious education classes here in the past 5 years?  
☐ ☐ 93. Have you attended adult religious education classes here in the past 5 years?  
☐ ☐ 94. Will/did your spouse also complete this survey?

95. Year you were *born*: \_\_\_\_\_ (4-digit year)

96. Gender: ☐ 1. Male ☐ 2. Female

97. What *best* describes your current marital status?

- ☐ 1. Single, never married ☐ 3. Divorced or separated  
☐ 2. Married or remarried ☐ 4. Widowed

98. Number of your children or stepchildren living with you who are: **Leave blank if none or not applicable.**

\_\_\_\_ Age 12 or younger

\_\_\_\_ Ages 13 to 17

99. What *best* describes your highest level of education?

- ☐ 1. Some high school or less ☐ 4. Associate's degree  
☐ 2. High school diploma ☐ 5. Bachelor's degree  
☐ 3. Some college/in college ☐ 6. Graduate degree

100. On what need or program should the parish most focus in the next one to three years?

**Note: The parish may include open-ended questions free of charge, but CARA charges an extra fee for transcribing and/or analyzing those responses.**

**Thank you for completing this survey.**

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