



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 or distress
- 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. Children (ages 4 to 12)
- 16. Teens (ages 13 to 17)
- 17. Young adults (ages 18 to 35)
- 18. Senior citizens (age 65 and older)
- 19. Single adults
- 20. Married couples
- 21. Those divorced or separated
- 22. Single parents
- 23. Those sick or homebound
- 24. Those grieving
- 25. Those in financial need
- 26. Inactive Catholics
- 27. New parishioners
- 28. Visitors and guests

Using the numbers for items 15-28 above, to which three groups should the parish give most priority for outreach?

29. _____ 30. _____ 31. _____

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

- 1 2 3 4**
- 32. Hospitality or sense of welcome
- 33. Liturgical decorations and environment
- 34. Music
- 35. Homilies
- 36. Weekend Mass schedule

Please evaluate parish efforts to:

- 1 2 3 4**
- 37. Communicate with parishioners
- 38. Nurture your relationship with Jesus Christ
- 39. Foster spiritual growth
- 40. Offer a Catholic view on current issues
- 41. Help you practice gospel values in your daily life
- 42. Meet people's spiritual needs
- 43. Invite you to participate in parish ministries
- 44. Manage parish finances

Please use these responses for the questions below.

- 1=None** **3=Some**
- 2=Only a Little** **4=High**
- Blank=Don't Know or Not Applicable**

What priority do you give the following for the parish?

- 1 2 3 4**
- 45. Children's religious education/formation
- 46. Youth ministry
- 47. Adult faith formation
- 48. Young adult ministry
- 49. Providing retreat opportunities
- 50. More small group prayer opportunities
- 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 opportunities for parishioners to help the needy
- 57. Developing a parish sense of community

Using the numbers for items 45-57 above, to which three needs should the parish give most priority?

58. _____ 59. _____ 60. _____

Please use these responses for the questions below.

1=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

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

How **likely** are you to do the following in the next year?

1 2 3 4

- 69. Attend a parish activity or function besides Mass
- 70. Talk to someone about your faith
- 71. Invite someone to attend one of parish services or activities
- 72. Regularly spend time in personal prayer
- 73. Spend time learning more about your faith
- 74. Regularly read the Bible
- 75. Participate in a small faith sharing group
- 76. Volunteer for a parish ministry
- 77. Contribute generously to the support of the parish

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 about parish life.

1 2 3 4

- 78. I feel included in parish life.
- 79. I feel well informed about what goes on in our parish.
- 80. I feel adequately informed about parish finances.
- 81. I would feel comfortable talking with the pastor.
- 82. Parishioners are encouraged to have a role in decision making in the parish.
- 83. I understand the concept of stewardship.
- 84. I want to volunteer more for the parish.

85. About how frequently do you currently attend Mass?

- 1. Never or rarely 4. Almost every week
- 2. A few times a year 5. Every week
- 3. Once or twice a month 6. More than once a week

86. How many ministries or activities are you involved with at the parish?

- 1. None 3. Two to four
- 2. One 4. Five or more

_____ 87. Years you have attended this parish?

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

_____ 88. Number of times you have invited someone to attend a parish worship service or activity in the past year?

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

Yes No

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

94. Year you were born: _____.

95. Gender: 1. Male 2. Female

96. What best describes your current marital status?

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

Number of your children or stepchildren living with you who are: **Leave blank if none.**

_____ 97. Age 12 or younger _____ 98. 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 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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