



## WHAT TO DO AFTER THE CARA REPORT IS DELIVERED

After your parish has received its completed report from CARA, it is suggested that several steps be taken to share the findings with parishioners and engage the parish community in further discussion regarding the report's findings.

Parishioners, especially those who completed the survey, will be particularly interested in reviewing the results. It is recommended that the parish:

- **Share the Executive Summary of the report in the parish bulletin** and announce at all Masses that the Executive Summary is available there
- **Post the full report on the parish website** and alert parishioners, through an announcement at Masses and in the bulletin, that the full report is available online
- **Hold a parish-wide presentation on the key findings from the report** followed by small group discussions about how best to address the findings

Some parishes opt to have a CARA associate come to the parish to present the findings (with a PowerPoint presentation) to parishioners and the parish leadership team, as well as answer questions about the report. A typical parish presentation by a CARA representative includes the following:

- ✓ **Detailed leadership presentation** by a CARA associate to the pastor and key parish leaders (e.g. Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, Staff, Committee Chairs) that highlights all findings as well as key issues for consideration by parish leaders. The presentation and discussion with parish leadership focuses upon areas related to the reasons that the parish decided to conduct a survey.
- ✓ **Presentation to a parish assembly** by a CARA associate. Similar to the leadership presentation but shorter in length, this presentation for parishioners highlights major findings of the survey.

How the parish further utilizes the report's findings often depends upon the initial reasons for conducting the survey. In many cases, the report findings are a launching point for the development of a parish strategic plan. In other cases, a specific ministry or issue addressed in the survey may be the subject of further parish study and planning.

### Parish Planning Consultation

Parishes embarking on the development of a strategic plan or other planning projects following the completion of a CARA Parish Life Survey often reach out to CARA for assistance in taking the next steps toward strategic plan development. While CARA does not offer parish planning consultation, its CARA Associate for Parish Surveys will work with parishes independently on parish planning. Please discuss with Mary Ellen Fise (mef272@georgetown.edu; 443-416-1804).