

Survey of Black Catholic Parishes in the United States

Please assist the NBCC in this important step of our Thriving Parishes Initiative by telling us about your parish. We aspire to find out what is working in churches across the nation, to identify the parishes that are currently thriving, and to identify the common threads among them. We will share these results with you as we establish best practices and widely disseminate them through a variety of mediums, both traditional and creative.

Please include any mission churches or worship sites for which the parish is responsible. If the parish is twinned, clustered, or in some other relationship with one or more other parishes, please respond to the questions only for the parish to which this questionnaire was sent. Please estimate numbers if necessary.

All questions apply to how your parish functioned prior to Covid-19 restrictions.

Parish Information

- _____ Total number of Sunday/Saturday Vigil Masses celebrated each weekend (any language)
- _____ Total number of weekday Masses celebrated each week (any language)
- _____ Total number of individual parishioners (adults and children) in the parish community
- _____ Number of families/households in the parish community
- _____ Approximate total attendance at all Sunday/Saturday Vigil Masses

Estimate the percentage of parishioners in each category (should sum to 100%):

- _____ % Black or African American (born in the U.S.)
- _____ % African or Afro-Caribbean (foreign-born)
- _____ % Non-Hispanic White, Caucasian, or Anglo
- _____ % Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander
- _____ % American Indian or Alaska Native
- _____ % Latinx or Hispanic
- _____ % Other: _____

Estimate the percentage of parishioners in each category (should sum to 100%):

- _____ % Children and adolescents (under age 18)
- _____ % Young adults (age 18 to 39)
- _____ % Middle-age adults (age 40 to 64)
- _____ % Seniors (age 65 and older)

Estimate the percentage of parishioners in each category (should sum to 100%):

- _____ % Male _____ % Female

Estimate the educational level of your parishioners (numbers should add to 100):

- _____ % Graduate level or higher degree
- _____ % Undergraduate degree
- _____ % High school diploma or GED
- _____ % No high school diploma or GED

If the parish offers Masses in languages other than English, are they offered:

- weekly, at least once a month, or occasionally

What languages are these Masses offered in? _____

If the parish has a school:

_____ # of students enrolled

_____ % of enrolled students who are from your parish

_____ % of enrolled students who are not Catholic

In your opinion, how would you describe your parish on the following aspects?

	Thriving	Average	Struggling
Parishioner engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vitality of worship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sense of community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evangelization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How well does your parish engage in the following?

	Very well	Somewhat well	A little	Not at all
Being inclusive of different cultures, different age groups, and marginalized groups such as divorced or LGBTQ members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Celebrating cultural diversity, understanding and embracing different cultures within the parish community, and providing opportunities for cultural exchange and collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evangelizing new generations and intentionally fostering a culture that is inclusive of young parishioners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting everyday stewardship, discipleship, evangelism, and other outreach events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing volunteer and community service opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharing, socializing, and fostering community among parishioners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaborating with other parishes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parish Mission, Ministries, and Programs

Does the parish offer the following spiritual events? Please indicate the priority of each in the parish:

	Offered	High priority	Moderate priority	Low priority
Revivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liturgical dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liturgical drama (i.e., re-enacting Bible stories)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosary or novenas prayed before or after Mass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exposition, Benediction, Holy Hour of Adoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth choir/Gospel choir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traditional choir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How much do you agree with the following statements?

	Very much	Somewhat	A little	Not at all
Parishioners value social gatherings within the parish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social media and networking are important for to the religious engagement among my parishioners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The parish is experiencing changes in its cultural makeup due to an influx of different ethnicities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

My congregation is growing older as membership declines and young adults disengage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My parishioners are being affected by the closing of Catholic schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My parishioners feel disconnected from the mainstream church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For each age group, check the box if the following statements are true:

	Teens, ages 13–18	Yng. Adults ages 19–35	Adults, ages 36–64	Seniors, ages 65+
We have strong participation among this age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We offer separate, age-specific liturgical worship for this group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This group sponsors social justice programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We offer age-targeted spiritual development, such as bible study and retreats, to this group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We provide mentoring and leadership development for this group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This group has small group meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does the parish offer or host the following to reach out and meet the needs of the community? How do you prioritize these outreach efforts?

	Done	High priority	Moderate priority	Low priority
Ecumenical collaborations with other churches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After-school programs, homework help, or other educational support services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outreach to the homeless, poor, and marginalized	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food pantry or soup kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial assistance, such as with rent or utility bills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pastoral care to immigrants and refugees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistance to victims of domestic violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistance to ex-offenders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How greatly do the following concerns affect your community?

	High impact	Moderate impact	Low impact
Lack of quality educational opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unemployment and underemployment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty within the parish community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gun violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incarceration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Addiction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are there tensions, misunderstandings, cultural challenges, and problems with acceptance and integration between Black American parishioners and foreign-born parishioners (such as African born or Latinx), or between parishioners and a foreign-born or White priest?

- A lot Somewhat A little Not at all

Your Diocese

Does your diocese have an engaged Office for Black Catholic Ministries, Office of Cultural Diversity, or Black Catholic Coordinator? Yes No

How collaborative would you say the diocese is with your parish?

- Very Somewhat A little Not at all

Pastor and Parish Staff

What is the Pastor's race and ethnicity? Select all that apply:

- Black or African American (born in the U.S.)
- African or Afro-Caribbean (foreign-born)
- Non-Hispanic White, Caucasian, or Anglo
- Asian, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Latino or Hispanic
- Other: _____

In Your Own Words

What do you consider to be the greatest factor in creating a thriving parish?

We seek to identify individuals we can call on to be revivalists, expert speakers on topics of interest, financial advisors, youth speakers, and more in Black Catholic parishes. Please share the name and contact information for anyone you would recommend, as well as your reason for recommending them.

As far as keeping Black young adults as active participants in your parish, do you think it is important to have campus chaplains and ministries in place to keep them engaged in the Catholic faith? Is there a priest or deacon who you would recommend for this ministry?