

Parish Viability Form

Name of Parish

I. Please list the activities of your parish under the following headings:

1. Community Life

2. Religious Education/Catechetics (Including Education/Formation of Adults, ex. RCIA, Lay Formation, etc.)

3. Liturgy

4. Outreach and Ministry of Care

5. Finance and Maintenance

II. Please complete one of the following two tables, whichever seems the most appropriate for your circumstances.

1. How many different people are providing leadership in your parish. What are the responsibilities of each?

Persons	Responsibilities
A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	
I	
J	
K	
L	
M	
N	
O	

III. Please complete the following form:

**If this is not true for us,
what is our reality?**

Availability of Pastoral Leadership

Our pastor presides at three or fewer Masses per weekend.

Our pastor/parish life director travels less than two hours for regular ministry on a Sunday.

Our pastor/parish life director serves three or fewer parishes.

Our parish is satisfied with our accessibility to the Eucharist.

Distance

Our parish is situated more than 50 kilometers from the closest parish.

Services (Please indicate services for which the members of your parish regularly travel to a nearby community)

	Yes	No	What is the name of the community?
School			
Hospital			
Senior's Home			
Shopping			
Sports			

Fiscal Reality

Over the past three years the revenues of our parish have been more than 75% of our expenses.

Our parish has been able to contribute to initiatives beyond our parish boundaries (i.e. refugees, missions, development and peace, BAA, etc.).

Our parish has the ability to pay for the repair or renovation required by our church building(s).

Parish Vitality

There are more than 30 parishioners regularly attending Sunday Eucharist.

More than 30% of our catholic community attends Sunday liturgies regularly

Our parishioners support lay presided Sunday celebrations of the Word with Communion.

Our parish has an active, representative parish pastoral council.

Our parish has the volunteers needed to provide the ministry desired by our parishioners.

Our parish prepares more than 3 children for Confirmation and First Eucharist each year.

The median age of our parishioners is lower than 60.

Outreach

Our parish contributes to the support of the poor and less fortunate in our community and elsewhere.

Our parish initiates activities for evangelization and re-evangelization.

Our parish responds to the initiatives of the deanery and diocese.

Our parish plans to initiate a parish reflection process for revitalization/reorganization/closure.

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, we would like our facilitator chosen by the diocese _____ or selected by the parish (in consultation with chancery). _____

Process for Parish Revitalization/Reorganization/Closure

All Parish Pastoral Councils or pastors are asked to complete a parish viability form every 3 years and to forward the results to the Chancery (see attached form).

If the results suggest that viability needs further examination the PPC should initiate a reflection process. Notification of this intention is included in the parish viability form. A facilitator shall be selected or appointed to assist the conversation. Parishes may choose their facilitator taking into consideration travel time and availability.

Parishes may also be asked to initiate a reflection process. There may be circumstances in which the Bishop will request a PPC to begin discussions possibly leading to reorganization or closure because of factors within the Diocese whereby pastoral needs could no longer be met in the existing configuration of parishes. This may apply also to urban parishes.

The Pastor, PPC, and facilitator will determine when and how to invite the whole parish into the conversation.

The parish will forward a copy of their plan and timeline to the Chancery.

The goals of the conversation will be:

- To identify the viability concerns
- To share the feelings/concerns regarding possible reorganization
- To recognize the gifts that have been experienced through the life of the parish
- To consider alternative ways to meet pastoral needs. These might be revitalization, reorganization or closure.

In those situations in which a parish life director, pastoral associate or any parish staff will be affected the pastoral plan should include appropriate opportunities for dialogue with him/her and which recognizes his/her needs.

The parish will forward its recommendations and timeline for meeting pastoral needs to the Chancery.

The Bishop will approve or recommend modifications to the pastoral plan and will see that the PPC is notified. An information package has been developed to assist with fiscal matters and the disbursement of buildings and other parish belongings.

The PPC will arrange for an appropriate way to inform the parish.

Other parishes involved in the reorganization or closure will be invited to give consideration to their role and willingness to assist with the pastoral plan.

If the decision is to close a parish, a liturgy will be developed to celebrate the life of that parish, to acknowledge closure, and to facilitate the transition to new parishes.

Neighboring parishes will be invited to the closing liturgy and will participate in the transition process. Parishioners will be invited to select the parish of their choice and formally register.

A liturgy of welcome will be held in each of the neighboring parishes and arrangements made to acknowledge and include the gifts of the new members of the parish.