

2018 Annual Parish Pastoral Report

From the Pastor's Desk



An annual *Parish Pastoral Report* is submitted to the archdiocese each year to provide specified statistical data to our Archbishop to help him identify current pastoral issues and set priorities for the future. Our *Parish Pastoral Council* also reviews these statistics to help us assess the current state of the parish and plan for the future.

Each year I provide the parish at large with this summary with the hope that prayerful reflection on the raw data helps each parish organization — and each parishioner — in setting priorities and taking steps to make our parish a better sign of Christ's presence in our community.

The statistics continue to show our need to enter more deeply into the *New Evangelization* preached by recent Popes, including Pope Francis. One of the ways that we have committed to do this is through Alpha, which has enlivened many parishes throughout the world. We intend to continue this program, but we need more parishioners to participate and to invite others to participate.

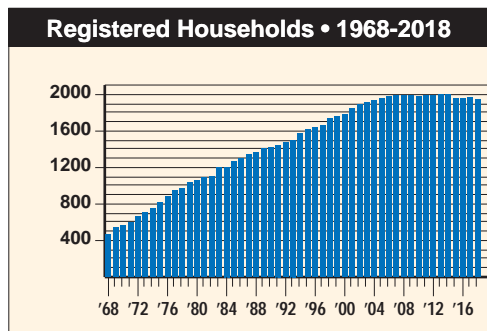
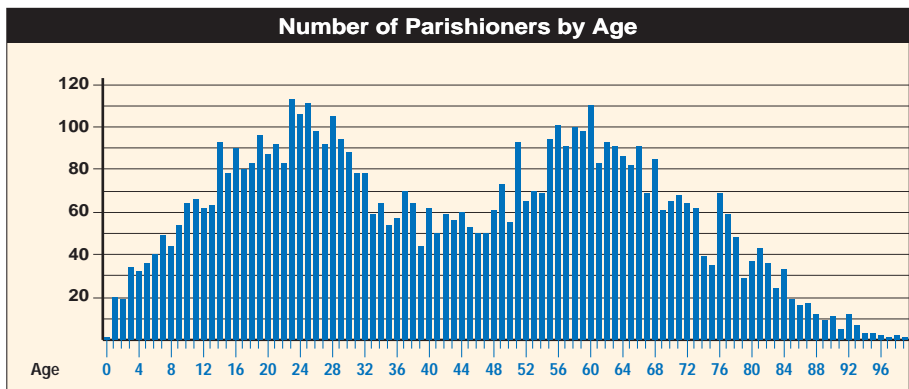
Father Linus Nangwele is nearing the end of his ministry here — he will be returning to Ghana to minister there. We have been — and continue to be — blessed by his ministry with us, and pray that his new ministry brings him happiness and success, and provides grace and blessings upon those to whom he will minister.

I hope to continue to be ministering here for "at least one more year" — that is the phrase that was included in the Archbishop's letter to me for the last several years. I pray that we can all use the year to truly make a difference in the faith lives of our parishioners — that we can all deepen our appreciation of God's love for us, and deepen our love for one another.

As you review this report, pray with me that the data inspire us to deepen our individual and parish commitment to build up the Kingdom in our parish and in our homes. At the same time, we must remember the tremendous joy in heaven over *one* sinner who repents, so our mission is not in "better numbers," but in a deeper spirituality so that we become better witnesses to Christ for those who are looking for the way, the truth and the life.

Parish Population (as of Dec. 31st)

| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total registered parishioners..... | 6,079 | 6,012 | 6,021 | 5,932 |
| Total registered households..... | 1,957 | 1,949 | 1,960 | 1,943 |
| Estimate the unregistered Catholic families . | 250 | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| Weekend Mass attendance (October count) . | 1,186 | 1,108 | 1,059 | 957 |
| Households donating at least once a month. | 608 | 635 | 605 | 560 |



From the parish's foundation in 1968 the number of parish families grew steadily until 2007, when it began to plateau as families moving into the parish replaced long-term parishioners moving to smaller homes or warmer climates. Now, the number of families is diminishing; this seems to be the result of families leaving the Church because of the sexual abuse crisis, as well as families moving into the parish who are "spiritual, but not religious," and who are, therefore, not registering.

Our average age is 43.0 — over nine and one-half months older than last year — but the age chart at the bottom of the first column does not show a "normal distribution." Young adults going out on their own or beginning a new family cannot afford to live within the parish boundaries, leaving a relatively small number of parishioners in their late 20's through the early 40's. Since 2001, our average age has moved from 35 to 43.

These statistics make clear that our challenge going forward is to deepen our personal relationship with the Lord, and then to share our love for Christ with those who have not yet experienced that kind of relationship with him — those who are disillusioned with the Church, as well as those who have not embraced the Church as a means to connecting with the Lord. The Lord saves us through the ministry of other men and women, despite all the limitations we experience because of fallen human nature. We all need to reach out to others.

I invite you to join with me in committing the parish to uniting more fully with the Lord, and sharing more fully his love, his forgiveness and his healing with one another.

2018 Parish Pastoral Report *(continued)*

Administration of Sacraments 2015 2016 2017 2018

Sacraments of Initiation

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Baptism..... | 38 | 48 | 31 | 31 |
| Confirmation | 79 | 69 | 63 | 2 |
| First Eucharist | 67 | 53 | 64 | 48 |

Sacrament of the Sick

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|
| Total Anointings for the year | 111 | 65 | 52 | 65 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|

Matrimony

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|---|----|
| Both Catholic..... | 9 | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| Catholic/Baptized..... | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Catholic/Non-baptized | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTAL..... | 15 | 13 | 8 | 11 |

Funerals

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Total funerals for the year..... | 51 | 54 | 53 | 54 |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

Parish School Age Population 2015 2016 2017 2018

Catholic Schools

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|
| St. Katharine Drexel, Holland..... | 18 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Nativity of Our Lord, Warminster..... | 5 | 10 | 12 | 8 |
| Our Lady of Good Counsel, Southampton. | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| Private Catholic Elementary | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| Diocesan High Schools..... | 25 | 20 | 18 | 18 |
| Private Catholic High Schools..... | 21 | 15 | 15 | 16 |
| Other Catholic Schools..... | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL..... | 89 | 76 | 76 | 69 |

Public or Non-Catholic Private Schools

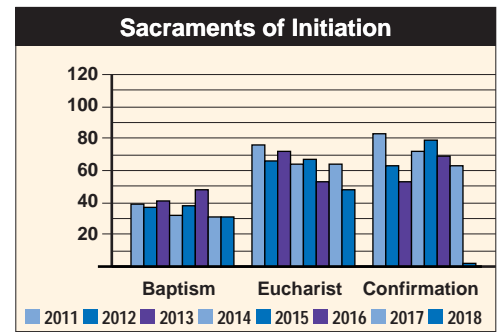
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|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Elementary (K - 6) | 405 | 373 | 372 | 348 |
| Junior High (7 - 8)..... | 151 | 157 | 156 | 139 |
| Senior High (9 - 12) | 320 | 317 | 318 | 306 |
| TOTAL..... | 876 | 847 | 846 | 793 |

Parish Religious Education 2015 2016 2017 2018

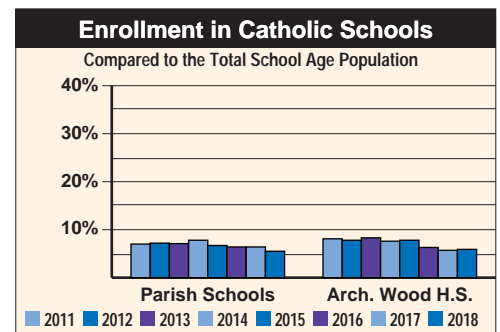
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|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Pre-School (Sunday Church School)..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Elementary (K - 6) | 355 | 325 | 305 | 268 |
| Junior High (7 - 8) | 20 | 20 | 14 | 10 |
| High School (9 - 12) | 10 | 14 | 12 | 8 |
| Total Catechists | 32 | 31 | 26 | 26 |

Adult Faith Formation

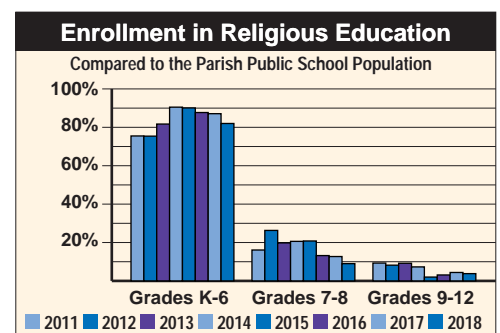
The Pastoral Report submitted to the Archdiocese also includes adult faith formation programs with attendance estimates. The programs include our Baptismal Preparation Program, programs for the parents of our First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation candidates. Programs offered during 2018 to the parish as a whole through our Adult Faith Formation Ministry included: *Queen of Heaven, A Biblical Walk through the Mass, Wisdom, God's Vision for Life, Alpha* and *The Sunday Readings*.



The consistently higher numbers for those receiving First Eucharist than for those being baptized reflect the figures in the age chart. No Religious Ed students were confirmed this year — because of an Archdiocesan policy, confirmation is being moved from 6th to 8th grade.



The above enrollment figures are for the neighboring parish schools attended by our parishioners, and our nearest Archdiocesan high school. Enrollment figures for those attending private Catholic schools and academies are estimates.



The percentages in the above chart are based on the figures given in the report. Since our Religious Ed Program begins in 1st grade, our grades 1-6 enrollment is being compared to the total students in grades K-6, thus, for those grades the actual percentages are higher than indicated.