

***On Mission for
The Church Alive!*** is a diocesan-wide planning initiative in which Bishop David Zubik invites all Catholics to envision how our parishes, schools, and ministries can best respond to the changing landscape of our communities so that they remain vital centers of worship and service.

Bishop Zubik is asking
you
to join him
in:

www.onmissionchurchalive.org

PRAYER

It's about relationship -

our relationship with Jesus and our relationship with each other in Him. Bishop has begun this process with a year of prayer to strengthen our personal relationship with the Lord and to guide our communal discernment of how God is calling us to fulfill His mission together. Over the last year, thousands of parishioners have gathered in intentional prayer at their parishes and across the diocese.

STUDY

Prayer continues always!

Check out prayer resources for your parish at onmissionchurchalive.org/year-of-prayer/toolkit/

CONSULTATION

Flip over this page to learn about:

- The challenges and opportunities facing our parishes and schools
- Consultation with our priests, deacons, religious, and lay leaders to date
- Next steps in this consultative process

What is Bishop Zubik asking us to study?

Challenges

- In the last 10 years, Mass attendance, weddings, infant baptisms, and Catholic elementary school enrollment has declined more than **40%**.
- **50% of our 200 parishes** run annual deficits. Many parishes are rapidly depleting their savings to pay the bills.
- The number of priests in active ministry will decline from **225 to 125** in the next 10 years.

How can we best proclaim the Good News in a Changing World?

What is getting in the way of people coming to know the Lord? What are parishes and schools doing to be centers of evangelization?

On Mission for The Church Alive! involves a comprehensive study of our Church in Southwestern Pennsylvania to understand the challenges and opportunities to get people excited about their faith.

Opportunities

- What are **best practices** from nationwide and among our parishes and schools with respect to evangelization and outreach?
- What can we learn from the more than 40,000 Catholics who participated in one of the most successful philanthropic campaigns in the US Catholic Church?
- What are innovative models of ministry that celebrate priestly identity and responsibly call forth the gifts of the laity?

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Key Consultation To Date:

- A survey of priests in active ministry
- Feedback forums with 700 lay ministers
- A survey of permanent deacons
- Focus groups with priests, deacons, young adults, parish leaders

Bishop Zubik wants **your input.**

Consultation and collaboration is essential to building and maintaining our relationships in Christ. Over the past 12 months, the *On Mission for The Church Alive!* initiative has consulted with the priests, deacons, religious, and lay ministers through many different methods.

Look for April's bulletin insert that will list the parishioners from your parish who are leaders in On Mission process and how you will participate in this important initiative.