

things are going to
change

onmissionchurchalive.org

why?

Things will change because we are called to change.

Our Catholic faith calls us to constant growth and improvement. Conversion is not just a term to describe people who come to the Church. Conversion is what happens every time we choose to change our hearts, our minds, our lives, and yes, at times our communities, in order to follow Jesus' call to "go make disciples of all nations."

As thousands of Catholics in Pittsburgh have attended *On Mission* sessions, the number one question is "How do we bring people back to church?" If we want people back we must ensure that our practices, behaviors, buildings, and habits, don't focus on maintaining what has been but what can help us build a vibrant future.

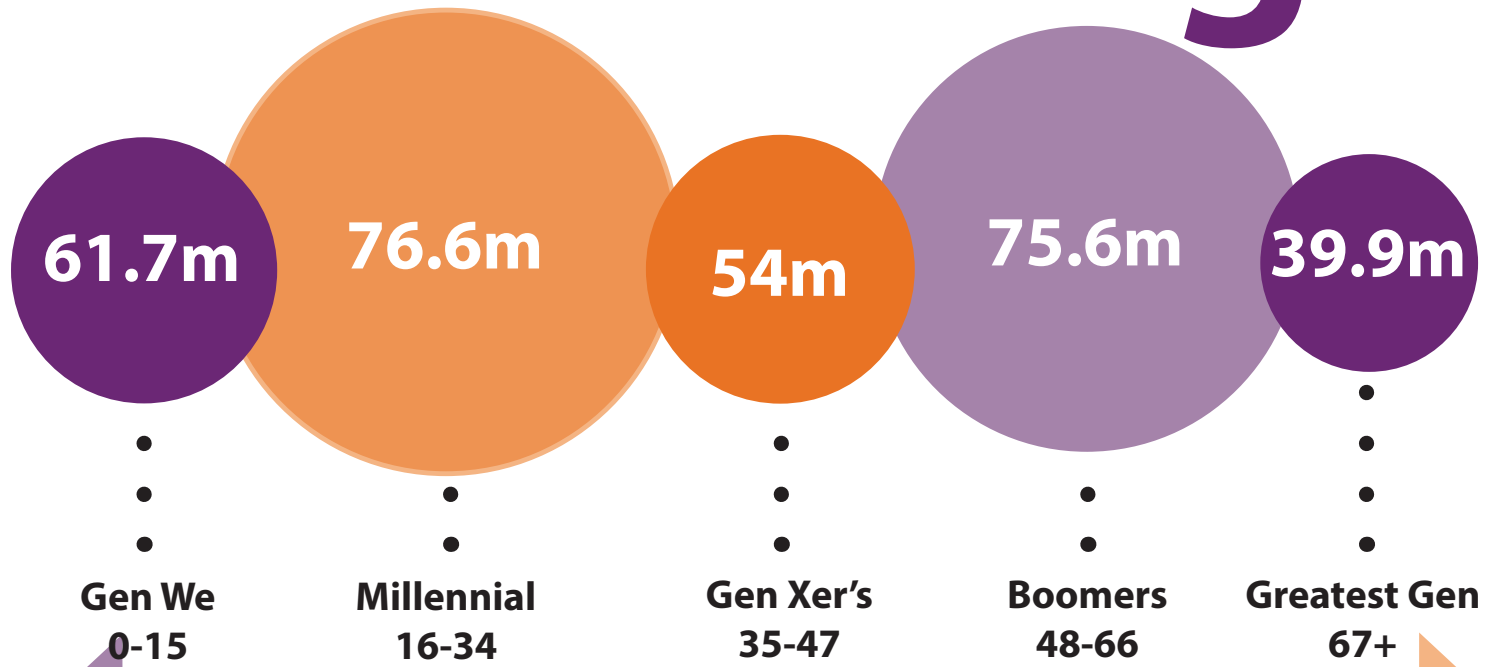
On Mission for The Church Alive! doesn't call us to change - our faith does. *On Mission* will help us figure out how we can change together to grow the Church and fulfill the mission that Jesus gave to us.



"I dream of a 'missionary option,' that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, languages and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation."

- Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel (27)

the **generational** case for **change**



The Challenge

- Many of our parishes, schools, and other institutions were built in response to the "Baby Boom" in the Post-World War II era.
- More than 80% of all ministry, service, and giving comes from 7% of our Catholics, the majority of whom are age 50+.
- In the next 20 years, Gen X'ers, a much smaller population, will replace the Boomers as the age 50+ leaders in our community.
- While it's estimated that 60% of Boomers and an even higher percentage of those age 70+ practice their faith, only about 30% of Gen X'ers are practicing Catholics.
- Without a significant change in our approach and outreach, the Church will lose a critical moment and suffer a tremendous loss of key leaders.

The Opportunity

- While Gen X is smaller than the Boomers, the Millennial Generation is now the largest generation.
- These young adults are currently making critical life decisions about their work and family.
- By adopting new forms of outreach, aligning our facilities with ministries, and equipping our leaders with the right resources, the Church can seize this moment and ensure that the legacy of faith continues to pass from generation to generation.
- This is a daunting challenge and a sacred responsibility but "nothing is impossible with God."