

Int⁺Formation

RENEWING PARISHES

News for Pastoral Planners and Those Making the Plan a Reality

Third Millennium Begins, Pastoral Revitalization Continues

On January 6, 2001, the end of the Jubilee of the Year 2000, the Vatican released Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter titled "**Novo Millennio Ineunte**" ("At the Beginning of the New Millennium"). In this letter the Holy Father encourages pastoral planning by the church everywhere in which the universal call to holiness plays a central role and a spirituality of communion is emphasized. In the third part of this apostolic letter, *Starting Afresh from Christ*, the Holy Father addresses the importance of on-going pastoral planning.... "It is in the local churches that the specific features of a detailed pastoral plan can be identified — goals and methods, formation and enrichment of the people involved, the search for the necessary resources — which will enable the proclamation of Christ to reach people, mold communities, and have a deep and incisive influence in bringing Gospel values to bear in society and culture."

Pope John Paul II reminds the faithful that the work of pastoral revitalization is the work of all baptized Catholics.... "I therefore earnestly exhort the Pastors of the particular Churches, with the help of all sectors of God's People, confidently to plan the stages of the journey ahead, harmonizing the choices of

each diocesan community with those of neighboring Churches and of the universal Church." The Holy Father offers several pastoral priorities which the Great Jubilee has brought to light: holiness, prayer, Sunday Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the primacy of grace, and listening to and proclaiming the Word.

The full text of *Novo Millennio Ineunte* can be found on the website of The Holy See at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/index.htm.

In "**Renewing Our Vision for the Third Millennium: A Pastoral Letter Marking the Third Millen-**

nium of Christianity" Cardinal Bevilacqua echoes the Holy Father's call for on-going renewal. The Cardinal tells the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia that although the Holy Year Doors are now closed, "the doors of our hearts must always be open to Christ."

In his pastoral letter, Cardinal Bevilacqua reflects on the many things that took place during the nine year period of renewal to prepare the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the Third Millennium. The spirit of Vatican II guided all of the renewal endeavors. All of the faithful - clergy, religious

and lay - were invited to be engaged in both personal and institutional renewal.

A prayerful and consultative model of pastoral planning was employed. Parish Pastoral Councils were established and parishes proclaimed their missions in written statements. Revitalization and reorganization took place within parishes as well as the administration of the Archdiocese.

In this pastoral letter, the Cardinal also offers his thoughts for future endeavors.. "Our Renewal process with all of its results has rendered us a vision of the contemporary experience of individual Catholics, of individual parishes, and of the Archdiocese as a whole. The many circumstances which affect Catholic life demonstrate that Renewal must be ongoing." He affirms the need for on-

Please turn to page 2

Coming census info can be of great value in parish planning

Think back to April 1, 2000. Do you remember what you did that day?

Perhaps you were one of the roughly 79 million Americans who filled out and mailed in a questionnaire to the United States Census Bureau. Or maybe you forgot to send your census form and were later called or visited by a census enumerator. In any case, the Census Bureau hopes that you were counted in its decennial census.

Since 1790, the federal government has been counting Americans every 10

years as required by the U.S. Constitution. Although some of the questions have changed and new technologies are being employed, many of the reasons for conducting the census have stayed the same. In addition to helping to determine how we are represented in government, census statistics are used by businesses, schools, elected officials, governmental agencies and non-profit organizations as they plan and carry out their varied efforts.

Starting in December 2000 and continuing through 2003, the Census Bureau is releasing results of the 2000 Census through the Internet, on Compact Disc and DVD, and in

Please turn to page 3

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

Also in this issue...

2 SUBCOMMITTEES ADDRESS PLANNING NEEDS

3 SUPPORT FOR PASTORAL PLANNING

SUPPORT FOR PASTORAL PLANNING

Subcommittees address Planning Needs

The Steering Committee for Pastoral Planning (SCPP) works to incorporate what is learned from pastoral planning efforts to develop the supports needed for ongoing pastoral planning. SCPP has established four ad-hoc Subcommittees, whose members are pastors, religious and lay people, who are involved in parish pastoral planning.

Here is brief description of the work of these Subcommittees.

Continuing Education and Formation of Parish Pastoral Councils

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the Continuing Education and Formation of Parish Pastoral Councils has been working on a document that will give some guidelines for the ongoing education and formation of members of Parish Pastoral Councils. The work of this Subcommittee consists of ensuring that the finished document is understandable and appropriate for all the parishes in the Archdiocese. The Subcommittee is also challenged with the task of how to disseminate this information in the clearest and most user friendly format. It is our hope that this will serve as a reference work for anyone or any office, both on the parish and Archdiocesan level, working with Pastoral Councils. This work is building upon work that has been previously done in the

Archdiocese and will also contain resources available for Pastoral Councils. Rev. Thomas Smith, Vicar for Delaware County is the Chair of this Subcommittee.

Twinning & Closure

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Twinning and Closure issues has been actively involved over the past two years in offering recommendations to SCPP that will offer support to pastors, who are serving two parishes. The recommendations developed by this Subcommittee are used as guidelines for pastors when they assume this dual responsibility. Many issues have been identified during the preparatory years as well as during the time of implementation of twinning. This Subcommittee has worked diligently to provide assistance to address and handle these issues.

On February 14, 2001, the Subcommittee met with the pastors who serve two

parishes to evaluate the effectiveness of the guidelines and other forms of support that were offered. The pastors overwhelmingly felt that the guidelines and support offered them was of great assistance. As a result, this Subcommittee has come to the end of its work, to be reactivated SCPP if and when the need arises.

Evaluation & Future Planning

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Evaluation and Future Planning was formed in April, 2000. This Subcommittee was asked to be mindful that planning is an ongoing and needed process, and to consider how parishes could be evaluated what has been accomplished in their parish plans, and in light of these findings, develop a pastoral plan for the future. This Subcommittee was asked to submit recommendations on what future steps should be taken and how the Archdiocese can assist parishes in planning in the next millennium.

The Subcommittee has been working to develop appropriate evaluation tools and resources for use by parishes in assessing their pastoral plans and their implementation, and in their future planning efforts. The Subcommittee realizes that these activities should be carried out at the parish level, whereby prompting ongoing renewal of parish communities, while at the same time recognizing, educating and forming parish leaders. The Subcommittee has submitted a first step proposal for evaluation

and future planning on the parish level to SCPP. Rev. James Beisel, Vicar for Bucks County, is the Chair of this Subcommittee.

Communication

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Communications is responsible for identifying, coordinating and facilitating the most effective means to communicate the various pastoral planning initiatives that are taking place. The work of this Subcommittee is to heighten awareness of existing communication process (e.g. the listing of Cluster communiqués on the Web); to recommend the suspension of mechanisms which are no longer used (e.g., the Cluster Pastoral Planning hotline); to encourage ongoing reports of implementation efforts on the parish and cluster level (via The Catholic Standard and Times); and to devise detailed recommendations for the dissemination of timely and important information regarding Planning and the Renewal of the Church to the faithful of the Archdiocese (i.e. the mailing and posting plan for the Pastoral Letter of Cardinal Bevilacqua, "Renewing Our Vision for the Third Millennium").

The audiences for pastoral planning related communications are at various times internal to the Archdiocesan Office Center as well as throughout the respective segments of the Archdiocese. Sister Linda Sario, OSF, Associate to the Vicar for Administration is the Chair of this Subcommittee. †

THIRD MILLENNIUM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

going renewal..."As a church renewed, yet still in the process of renewal, we exit the nine-year period of Parish Self-Study, Cluster Pastoral Planning and the Jubilee Year, ready to proceed

with courage in the work of the new evangelization and all it implies. What has occurred should be viewed as only the beginning. What occurs now will utilize the Renewal achievements and the Jubilee Year's celebrations to chart our direction into this new century and millennium. Our efforts, thus far, have framed the work that lay ahead."

The full text of Cardinal Bevilacqua's pastoral letter can be found, in both English and Spanish, on the Archdiocesan website: www.archdiocese-phl.org †

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One Faith, Many Voices in Prayer

The Faithful of the Archdiocese share one faith, but pray in 18 different languages.
How many can you name?

Answer on page 4

† REFLECTION

It helps, now and then, to step back
and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of
the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:
We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen

Prayer of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was murdered on March 24, 1980

SUMMER TRAINING SESSION
Enhancing Skills for Parish Meetings

These sessions are designed to assist those who:

- prepare agendas • lead meetings • wish to have more effective parish meetings

June 19 and 26 Archdiocesan Office Center, Philadelphia
June 20 and 27 Mother of Divine Providence Parish Center, King of Prussia

All sessions are two hours in length, and begin at 7:15 PM
If interested, call the Office for Research & Planning
215-587-3545 to register. Space is limited.

New training sessions stress theology, talent usage

The parish depends on the work of pastor, parish staff and dedicated volunteers in order to live out its mission. In every parish, many individuals give generously of their time and talent. Leaders of parish organizations and parish staff oversee the work of many volunteers who serve the parish in a variety of ways. It is important to recognize that every day each of us is given the same amount of time. Those who give some of this time to their parish community, need to feel that the time is used wisely and is valued.

Two area colleges, LaSalle University and Neumann College, have prepared and presented three programs to strengthen the vitality of parishes. Although these training sessions have addressed different topics, they have two common themes: 1) the theological principles involved in the

call to carry out the mission of Christ and 2) the need to use the gifts of time and talent, given in service to the parish by both clergy and laity, in an efficient and effective manner.

Volunteer Management
Neumann College, through their Continuing Education Department, offers a training session in Volunteer Management. This training session focuses on volunteer recruitment, retention and matching skills of individuals with parish needs. The workshop also addresses how to match volunteer needs with program goals. The parishes of Cluster 64 and three parishes in Cluster 61 have hosted this training course. Neumann has received very positive feedback concerning the presenters and the materials that were distributed.

Please turn to page 4

CENSUS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

printed paper reports. The first results were national and state population totals used in the calculation of congressional apportionment, that is, the process of dividing the 435 members of the House of Representatives among the 50 states.

As of Census Day 2000, the population of the United States was 281,421,906.

reported at 12,281,054, a modest increase of 3.4 percent over the 1990 figure.

Another set of statistics was released for Pennsylvania on March 9, 2001. These numbers, known as Public Law (P.L.) 94-171 data, form the foundation for redistricting. This process, controlled by state legislatures, is the method in which U.S.

population totals and voting age population by race and Hispanic/Latino origin, reported by counties, municipalities, census tracts and census blocks.

What does all of this mean for the Church?

Plenty! Census data can assist us in understanding the people in our parishes and neighboring communities. Here are just a few of the potential users of census statistics:

- † Church-based Social Service Agencies
- † Parish Schools
- † Pastors
- † Youth Ministry Programs
- † Parish Pastoral Councils
- † Finance Committees

- † Evangelization Teams
- † Parish Staff

In future articles, we'll alert you to specific data items scheduled for release along with some practical ideas on how to use this data in your parish. In the meantime, feel free to contact me with your questions, comments and ways in which your parish may plan to use census data. †

TOTAL POPULATION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA:	
April 1, 2000	3,849,647
April 1, 1990	3,728,909

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

congressional and state legislative districts are

That's a 13.2 percent increase over the number counted in the 1990 census. Pennsylvania's new resident population total was

drawn to ensure that an individual's vote is worth the same as another person's vote. The data provided under P.L. 94-171 include

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

US Census Bureau's Web Site
<http://www.census.gov>

Census 2000 Data Release Schedule
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata>

TRAINING COURSES PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR PARISHES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)

Orientation for Parish Pastoral Council Members

Dr. Stephen Gambescia, Chair of the Liberal Studies and Continuing Education Division, and John Freeman, Coordinator of Continuing Education Programs designed an orientation session for members of parish pastoral councils. This session provides an overview of the theological rationale and principles of parish pastoral councils and the dynamics of working in a consultative group. The orientation is a complement to what the pastor already provides for parish pastoral council members. Although the orientation session was developed with new parish pastoral council members in mind, it is open to all who serve on the council.

This session, when

sponsored by a cluster of parishes offers an efficient way to orient parish pastoral council members. It also provides a chance for parish pastoral council members to meet their peers and to learn more about their consultative role and its responsibilities. The parishes of Clusters 62 and 64 have sponsored this orientation session for their parish pastoral councils.

For more information on the Volunteer Management Training and the Orientation for Parish Pastoral Council Members, contact John Freeman at 610-361-5312.

Parish Leadership Training

Greg Bruce, the Dean of LaSalle University's Business School and Rev. Francis Berna, OFM, the Director of the Graduate Religious Studies Program at LaSalle, developed a

series of Leadership Training workshops for those involved in parish based ministries. Father Berna stated that when he reviewed the cluster pastoral plans he noticed that many of them called for some form of adult religious education and leadership development. Father Berna had designed a program for the Diocese of Trenton and was interested in trying a pilot in this Archdiocese. He spoke with parishioners, the Chancery Office and Dominic Lombardi, Director of the Office for the Formation of the Laity, to learn what training might be most helpful.

Greg Bruce and Father Berna designed three independent workshops. They are titled: "Skill Awareness and Development", "Communication Skills Theory" and "Group Dynamics and Group Decision -Making". These workshops are three hours

each. In the Fall of 2000, each of the eleven parishes of Cluster 15 was invited to send representatives to these workshops. These sessions took place on consecutive weekends at Saint Bernard Parish.

For information about these sessions, contact Rev. Francis Berna at 215-951-1346.

Answer

46 parishes offer Mass in 17 languages in addition to English. These are:

LANGUAGE	NO. OF PARISHES
Spanish	19
Polish	9
Vietnamese	8
Lithuanian	3
French (Haitian)	2
Italian	2
Korean	2
Portuguese	2
Cantonese	1
Indonesian	1
Knanayan	1
Laotian	1
Malaysian	1
Mandarin	1
Syro Malabar	1
Syro Malankara	1
Tagalog (Filipino)	1

DATA SOURCE: OCTOBER COUNT, 1999

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Office for Research & Planning
Archdiocese of Philadelphia • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

If you found news in this issue useful please consider passing it on.

Your feedback is appreciated. I am interested in knowing what you liked and what you didn't like in this issue. Also, let me know if you would like to see future issues and what you would like to see in them.

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