

Our Lady Queen of Peace Stewardship Report



October, 2017

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Census and Demographic Information

After the Strategic Plan for Growth and Renewal was published in 2012, Our Lady Queen of Peace conducted a parish-wide census to obtain an accurate picture of the demographic make-up of our parish. Upon completion of the census, it was determined that there were approximately 795 registered families in the parish. After the census, we experienced an initial growth in registered families. This growth was accounted for by new families joining the parish and additional families previously on our lists who contacted the parish and updated their family information after the completion of the census.

For about the next three years, the number of registered families hovered around 812 to 815. We have averaged between 30 and 40 new registrations a year, but these new registrations have been offset by other families moving out of the parish and by the deaths of older members. Between the Stewardship campaigns of 2015 and 2016, we experienced a small gain in the parish population, a 2% increase in both registered families and in the total population of the parish. These numbers have remained relatively steady for 2017.

	2015	2016	2017
Registered Families	813	830	833
Individual Members	2,258	2,277	2,300

There are 1412 adult heads of households in the parish, 61.39% of the total parish population. While the number of new households registering in the parish for the past year declined about 50% (15 new registrations), the overall population has remained approximately the same.

Prior to last year's campaign, the average age of adult heads of house in the parish had been approaching 57, increasing slightly each year. At the time of last year's campaign, the result of new registrations (48) and loss of registered families (31) has yielded an overall gain of 17 registered families and the average age of adult heads of households has decreased 55.86. Again, this year, there has been a slight decrease in the average of heads of households to 55.63.

One area of concern for the parish, in considering the total population, is that adult heads of households outnumber minor dependents by nearly 2 to 1. While there are a total of 1412 adult heads of households, there are only 715 dependents at or below college age. Only about half of the registered families in the parish have minor dependents. For the 15 newly registered households in the past year, 7 families have minor, dependent children. That is, 46.7% of the newly registered families have minor, dependent children. In these 7 families, there are 22 adult heads of house and 21 minor dependents. This translates to a 1:1 ratio between new adult members and their dependent children. This ratio between young and old is more balanced this year, but there are fewer new registrations. Consistent with last year's report, this indicates that Our Lady Queen of Peace is to be considered, largely in its present make-up, as an older parish, but with some indications of younger members and younger families beginning to join.

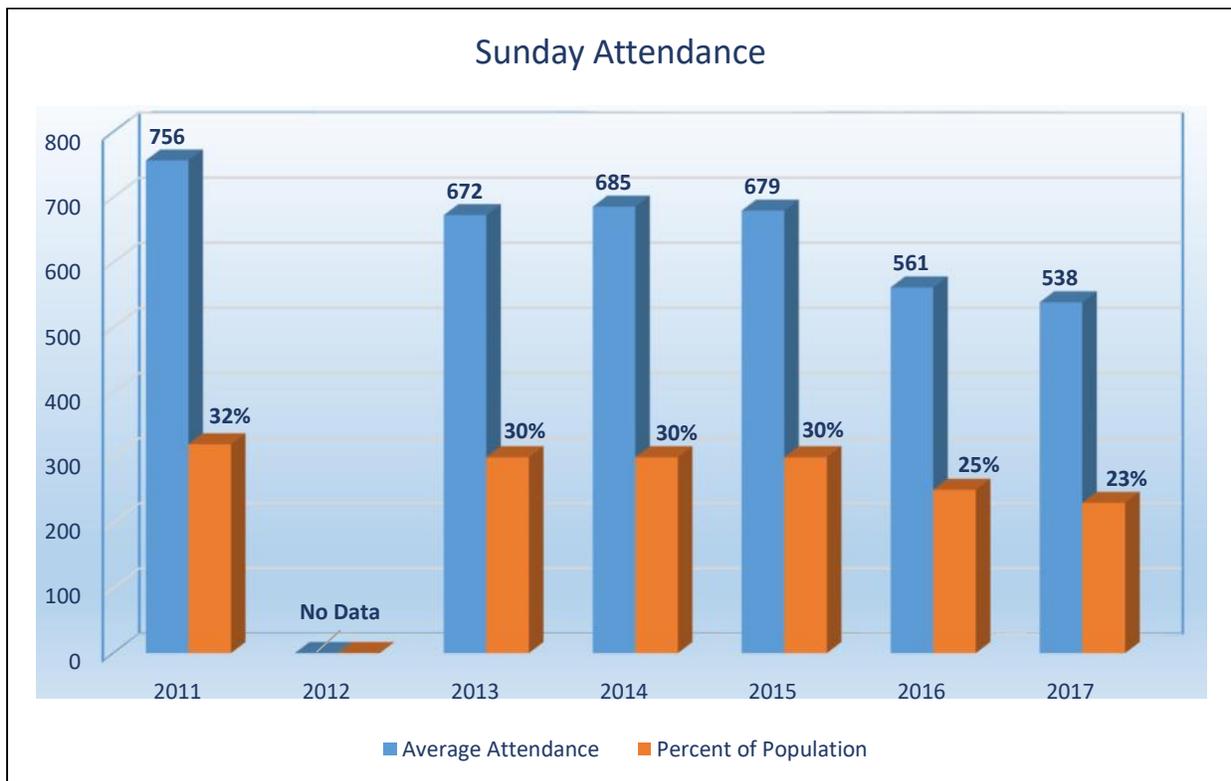
Another concern for the parish is the average age of wage earners upon whom the parish must rely for support. Of the 1,412 adult heads of house, only 839 are identified as wage earners, 59.42% of all heads of house. This means that approximately 40.6% of adult heads of households are unemployed or retired and on fixed incomes, over 1/3 of all independent adults. This becomes more of a concern when it is noted that the largest group of wage earners falls in the 50-64 age group, the group nearing retirement.

Age Group	Number of Independent Adults	Percent of Independent Adults	Number of Wage Earners	Percent of Independent Adults
18-24	10	0.71%	5	0.35%
25-34	113	8.0%	87	6.16%
35-49	337	23.87%	275	19.48%
50-64	473	33.5%	349	24.72%
Over 65	388	27.48%	101	7.15%
Age Unknown	91	6.44%	22	1.56%

The above table indicates that 60.99% of the independent adults in the parish are over the age of 50 and that this group accounts for over half (53.64%) of the parishioners who are wage earners.

Parishioner Participation

A significant indicator of the vitality of a parish can be measured by Sunday attendance. At the request of the Archdiocese, Our Lady Queen of Peace, with all parishes in the diocese, completes an annual three week count of attendance at Sunday Masses. Our average totals for the last several years are shown in the graph.



The downward trend of the graph indicates that, while the parish has experienced a slight growth over the past few years, from a total population of 2,240 in 2013 to a present population of 2,300, active participation at Sunday Liturgy has decreased from 32% to 23% of all registered parishioners over that time period. In 2011, the reported population of the parish was 2,360, but this was an inflated figure. After the publication of the Parish Strategic Plan for Growth and Renewal in 2012, a parish census was conducted to produce a more accurate accounting of active parishioners.

Incorporating Youth into Parish Life

A significant aspect of the mission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is to provide quality Catholic education. Our Lady Queen of Peace participates in this mission through its Catholic School, PSR program, RCIA/RCIC program, and continuing efforts at adult faith formation. In the parish survey conducted in 2010, parishioners overwhelmingly voiced support for our school program – 93% of all those responding. Support of the mission of the Archdiocese and maintenance of our own parish school make it important to examine the demographic make-up of our parish with respect to minor children.

The total number of dependents within parish households is 888. This number includes minor children, adult children still living at home, and older adults living with their adult children. The following table displays the age distributions of dependent members of parish households.

Age Group	Number In Group	Percent of All Dependents
0-2	20	2.25%
3-4	30	3.38%
5-14	365	41.1%
15-18	138	15.54%
19-23	162	18.24%
24-34	115	12.95%
35-49	17	1.91%
50-64	9	1.01%
Over 65	8	0.9%
Age Unknown	24	2.7%

For our purposes, it is important to consider three age brackets:

1. 3-4, Pre-School age
2. 5-14, Grade School age
3. 15-18, High School Age

At the present

1. There are 30 parishioner families with pre-school age children, a drop from 43 last year. 12 of 30 parish families with Pre-School age children utilize the pre-school program, 40% of all families with pre-school aged children and 1.4% of all parish families. Only one child is enrolled in the 3 Year Old Program and 24 in the 4 Year Old Program for this academic year. 13 of the 25 children

enrolled in Pre-School are from parish families, 52% of the entire enrollment. This also represents 43.3% of all pre-school age children in the parish. The enrollment trends for Pre-School are displayed in the following table:

Pre-School Enrollment							
2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		% Change	2017 - 2018		% Change
Total Enrollment:	31	Total Enrollment:	35	12.90%	Total Enrollment:	25	-28.57%
Parishioner:	15	Parishioner:	14	-6.67%	Parishioner:	13	-7.14%
Non-Parishioner:	16	Non-Parishioner:	21	31.25%	Non-Parishioner:	12	-42.86%

It can be noted that, for the 2015-2016 school year, there were 12 three year olds and 19 four year olds enrolled. These numbers increased to 14 and 21 respectively for 2016-2017. For this year, the four year old enrollment has again increased slightly, but the three year old enrollment has dropped considerably, a decrease of over 71%. This is a concern for enrollment next year in the four year old program since the four year old program feeds directly into the day school.

- 177 parish families have school age dependents, 40.9% of all families with dependents and 21.4% of all parish families. There are approximately 300 school age children from parishioner families. This number is adjusted and approximated to account for 14 year old children who have entered high school but still appear on the list of grade school age children, a total of 361. Of these, 180 school age children are enrolled either in the grade school or PSR program, 60% of all parishioner school age children. This leaves 40% unaccounted for, approximately 120 school age children receiving no formal religious training.

37 families with school age children have children enrolled in the grade school, 20.9% of all families with school aged children and 4.5% of all parish families. This is a decrease of 10 families from last year. 65 parishioner children are enrolled in the school, 21.67% of all school age children in the parish. Enrollment trends for the past two years had shown indications of stabilization, but there was a drop of enrollment in the school again this year. The enrollment trends for the school are displayed in the following table:

Grade School Enrollment

2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		% Change	2017 - 2018		% Change
Total Enrollment:	97	Total Enrollment:	101	4.12%	Total Enrollment:	86	-14.85%
Parishioner:	79	Parishioner:	75	-5.06%	Parishioner:	65	-13.33%
Non-Parishioner:	18	Non-Parishioner:	26	44.44%	Non-Parishioner:	21	-19.23%

Primary Grades (K thru 2nd)

2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		% Change	2017 - 2018		% Change
Total Enrollment:	36	Total Enrollment:	37	2.78%	Total Enrollment:	32	-13.51%
Parishioner:	26	Parishioner:	24	-7.69%	Parishioner:	19	-20.83%
Non-Parishioner:	10	Non-Parishioner:	13	30.00%	Non-Parishioner:	13	0.00%

Elementary Grades (3rd thru 5th)

2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		% Change	2017 - 2018		% Change
Total Enrollment:	31	Total Enrollment:	33	6.45%	Total Enrollment:	31	-6.06%
Parishioner:	24	Parishioner:	26	8.33%	Parishioner:	26	0.00%
Non-Parishioner:	7	Non-Parishioner:	7	0.00%	Non-Parishioner:	5	-28.57%

Middle School Grades (6th thru 8th)

2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		% Change	2017 - 2018		% Change
Total Enrollment:	30	Total Enrollment:	31	3.33%	Total Enrollment:	23	-25.81%
Parishioner:	29	Parishioner:	25	-13.79%	Parishioner:	20	-20.00%
Non-Parishioner:	1	Non-Parishioner:	6	500.00%	Non-Parishioner:	3	-50.00%

While the overall drop in enrollment is a concern, it is to be noted that the largest drop for the current school year is at the middle school level and the smallest class at the elementary level will advance to middle school next year. Last year's enrollment had shown a small gain. Among parish children, enrollment at the primary level increased by 5 this year and enrollment at the elementary level decreased by only one. Enrollment at the middle school level dropped by 6. What may be of more concern is the drop in enrollment of children from non-parishioner families, a total decrease of 9 students from last year. Across all grade levels, parishioner children decreased by only 2.

- 69 parish families have children enrolled in the PSR program, 38.9% of all families with school aged children and 8.35% of all parish families. This represents a loss of 9 families and a decline of nearly 5% in enrollment from families with school aged children. While the total enrollment of individual students for this year is roughly the same as last year, it is significant to note the general decline in enrollment over the last several years.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Total Enrollment	170	144	124	122
Parishioners	147	126	112	117
Non-Parishioners	22	16	12	5

The enrollment trends for the PSR program over the last three years are displayed in the following table:

Total Enrollment							
2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		2017 - 2018			
			% Change		% Change		
Total Enrollment:	144	Total Enrollment:	125	-13.19%	Total Enrollment:	122	-2.40%
Parishioner:	124	Parishioner:	110	-11.29%	Parishioner:	117	6.36%
Non-Parishioner:	15	Non-Parishioner:	12	-20.00%	Non-Parishioner:	5	-58.33%

Primary Grades (K thru 2nd)							
2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		2017 - 2018			
			% Change		% Change		
Total Enrollment:	42	Total Enrollment:	36	-14.29%	Total Enrollment:	27	-25.00%
Parishioner:	39	Parishioner:	30	-23.08%	Parishioner:	26	-13.33%
Non-Parishioner:	3	Non-Parishioner:	6	100.00%	Non-Parishioner:	1	-83.33%

Elementary Grades (3rd thru 5th)							
2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		2017 - 2018			
			% Change		% Change		
Total Enrollment:	46	Total Enrollment:	37	-19.57%	Total Enrollment:	52	40.54%
Parishioner:	38	Parishioner:	34	-10.53%	Parishioner:	49	44.12%
Non-Parishioner:	8	Non-Parishioner:	3	-62.50%	Non-Parishioner:	3	0.00%

Middle School Grades (6th thru 8th)							
2015 - 2016		2016 - 2017		2017 - 2018			
			% Change		% Change		
Total Enrollment:	51	Total Enrollment:	49	-3.92%	Total Enrollment:	43	-12.24%
Parishioner:	47	Parishioner:	46	-2.13%	Parishioner:	42	-8.70%
Non-Parishioner:	4	Non-Parishioner:	3	-25.00%	Non-Parishioner:	1	-66.67%

One cause for concern in PSR enrollment is the decline of enrollment in the primary grades. For the current year, only three students are enrolled in Kindergarten, a 57% decrease from the previous year. When roster lists from consecutive school years are compared, it is obvious that children who are still active members of the parish are withdrawing from the program. Further, it is impossible to formulate clear conclusions about enrollment trends from the numbers submitted since there are numerous discrepancies among enrollment grade levels for students from one year to the next, so that the actual enrollment numbers at specific grade levels are not certain for any given year. There are even discrepancies in student names from one year to the next and a lack of consistency in reporting family information for students with last names that

differ from family names. All of this contributes to a lack of confidence in the accuracy of reported enrollment.

4. 116 parish families have children of high school age. There are currently a total of 141 parishioners who fall within this age group, 15-18. The number should be adjusted to reflect the 14 year olds who are currently starting their freshman year of high school. Therefore an approximate number of high school aged minors would be 200. This year, for the first time since we have been asking for data, it was reported that 8 high school age parishioners participate in the parish youth group. That represents only 4% of the total high school age population of the parish. In addition, 23 Junior High and High School students are members of the St. Vincent de Paul Youth Chapter. The St. Vincent de Paul Youth Chapter is an associate organization of the local chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the parish, part of an International Organization governed by its own charter. 11 of the 23 members are high school students, three of whom are also members of the parish youth group. This means that, in total, only 16 high school age students are involved in regular activities for young people within the parish, only 8% of the high school age population of the parish. It is to be noted that a number of high school aged students do participate in the Hope Builders program and/or the annual youth retreat, but these are one-time events, not on-going participation and engagement, programs that are open to all young people in the parish.
The Strategic Plan published in 2012 called for integrating young people into parish ministries and organizations, particularly liturgical ministries. This integration is minimal. There is one high school student who serves as a Proclaimer and four who are involved in Music Ministry. The one serving as a Proclaimer is also a member of both the parish youth group and the St. Vincent de Paul Youth Chapter, and two of those involved in Music Ministry are also members of the SVDP Youth Chapter. This means, in the end, that only 18 high school aged students have any significant involvement with the parish and parish activities beyond attendance at Sunday Mass, a total of 9%. 91% are unengaged.
5. At the time these figures were compiled there was no program available for young adults. Such a program is apparently currently in the works, but the Stewardship Committee has no statement of purpose for this group, whom it targets for membership nor any statement of goals.

Enrollment of children in a pre-school program is, primarily, a parental decision influenced by the work schedules of parents and the perception of parents about the effectiveness of a pre-school program in readying their children for success in school. Enrollment of children in a Catholic school is influenced by parents' ability to afford school tuition and whether or not they believe that Catholic school education is a value. Here it is to be noted that only 20.9% of the families with school age children opt to enroll them in our school. What is more of a concern is that, at present, only 38.9% of parish families with school aged children who have not chosen to enroll them in the parish school have enrolled their children in the PSR program. 40.2% of parish families with school aged children are, apparently, not providing religious education and sacramental preparation for their children. Granted, a small number of families opt for home schooling, but the number is small and we do not have documentation on which families are doing this. 182 of the approximately 300 children of school age are enrolled in either the parish school or PSR program, leaving 118 children unenrolled in any religious education program. This means that nearly 40% of all school age children in the parish are being left out.

Adult education, evangelization and faith formation activities are available at Our Lady Queen of Peace.

- There are currently three adults enrolled in the RCIA program. Last year there were none.
- The Adult Faith Formation Committee promotes monthly activities, prayer opportunities, parish outreach opportunities, Scripture study, and other formation activities – including the distribution of Spiritual Reading books to all households for the past two years.
- The Catholic Social Response Committee hosts four presentations annually on justice issues and the social teachings of the Catholic Church with respect to these issues. The committee also publishes a periodic newsletter dealing with Catholic Social Teaching and presenting opportunities for involvement and advocacy.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The basic population distribution of Our Lady Queen of Peace indicates that we are currently an older parish, with an average age of independent adults of approximately 56 and approximately 60% of independent adults over the age of 50.
- A large percentage of participants in parish activities and contributors to the parish fall into the age brackets of those nearing retirement and those already retired and living on fixed incomes.
- The parish population has remained stable over the last several years and is beginning to show an increase. The increase of registered families is beginning to lower, if only slightly, the average age of independent adults.
- With the relative stability of the parish population, the declining trend in Mass attendance over the last several years is a cause for concern.
- The increase of younger families has also increased the number of younger dependents within the parish.
- The younger population of the parish is significantly under-served. 46.2% of school aged children are not enrolled in any formal religious education program and 97.3% of teens and young adults are not engaged in parish programs and activities.



Commitments to Committees and Organizations

Organizational Renewals¹

Prior to the 2015-2016 Stewardship Campaign, the Stewardship Committee instituted a new process of renewing parishioners' commitments to participate in parish committees, organizations and activities. This process entails asking all committee/organization/activity heads to review their current list of members, delete any members who have become inactive, add any new members since the last Stewardship campaign, and confirm a list of all current members. The updated lists are published to the parish and, for the purpose of filling out yearly commitment cards, parishioners need only submit a commitment card if they wish to join a new organization or withdraw from an activity under which they are listed. This process was followed again this year and the current list of members was published to the parish.

After updating commitment lists with the information provided by organization chairs/contacts, and recording all personal commitments submitted to the 2017-2018 campaign, we now have 328 individual from 250 parish families committed to serving the parish in a variety of activities, organizations and committees. Further, the number of individuals and families can be broken down into basic segments of the parish population – families with wage earners, families with dependents, families with children in the grade school, and families with children in the PSR program. Also for individuals, commitments can be tabulated by the age groups to which individual parishioners belong.

When commitments renewed by organizations are viewed from the perspective of registered families, the following numbers are obtained:

Family Commitments Renewed by Organizations

		Percent of Registered Families
Total Registered Families	833	
Total Families with Wage Earners	377	45.26%
Total Families with Dependents	435	52.22%
Total Pre-School/School Families	46 ²	5.52%
Total PSR Families	65	7.8%

	Families with Commitments	Percent of Families in Group	Percent of Households with Commitments
Total Families	231	27.73%	
Families with wage earners	162	42.97%	70.13%

¹ The majority of committee chairs and organization contacts submitted updated renewal lists. Several did not. The numbers reported for organizational renewals, then, will actually be somewhat larger than what is reported.

² This number represents the combined number of families with children enrolled in either pre-school, the day school, or both.

Families with dependents	112	25.75%	48.48%
School families	21	45.65%	9.1%
PSR families	23	35.38%	9.95%

Overall, just over ¼ of registered families (27.73%) have members who are involved in parish activities according to renewals made by organizations. The vast majority of commitments renewed by organizations for School and PSR families are altar servers.

When commitments renewed by organizations are viewed from the perspective of individual, registered parishioners, the following numbers are obtained:

Individual Commitments Renewed by Organizations

		Percent of Registered Parishioners	
Total Registered Parishioners	2300		
Total Wage Earners	900	39.13%	
Parishioners in Families with Dependents	1660	72.17%	
Parishioners in Families with School Children	196	8.52%	
Parishioners in Families with PSR Children	243	10.57%	

	Individual Commitments	Percent of Members in Group	Percent of Commitments
Total Parishioners	301	13.09%	
Total Wage Earners	213	23.67%	70.76%
Members in Families with Dependents	148	8.92%	49.17%
Members in Families with School Children	30	15.31%	9.97%
Members in Families with PSR Children	28	11.52%	9.3%

Overall, less than 1/7 (13.09%) of registered individuals are involved in parish activities according to renewals made by organizations. This is to be expected since a significant portion of the parish population is made up of minor children, while most committees and organizations are composed of adult memberships. The largest percentage of commitments, looked at both from the point of view of registered families and individual members, is comprised of the wage earner group. Still, at the time these numbers were compiled 20 of the 30 commitments of individuals from school families are altar servers, 66.7% of the total, and 17 of the 28 commitments of individuals from PSR families are altar servers, 60.71% of the total.

Personal Commitments

While the vast majority of commitments are recorded by means of organizations confirming their lists of active members, there are always a number of individuals each year who join new groups or activities and submit personal commitment cards. The organizational renewal of commitments appears to be working we are seeing only a limited number of personal commitment cards being submitted from people who want to change their membership status and/or participate in new activities.

	Families with Commitments	Percent of Families in Group	Percent of Commitments By Group
Total Families	18	2.16%	7.2%
Families with wage earners	12	3.18%	6.9%
Families with dependents	5	1.15%	4.27%
School families	0	0%	0%
PSR families	1	1.54%	4.17%

Overall, 7.2% of all families from which commitments were made had members making personal commitments. The remaining commitments from 92.8% of families from which commitments were made came from organizational renewals.

When personal commitments are viewed in terms of individuals making commitments, the following numbers are obtained.

	Individual Commitments	Percent of Members in Group	Percent of Commitments By Group
Total Parishioners	27 ³	1.17%	8.2%
Total Wage Earners	18	2.0%	7.8%
Members in Families with Dependents	9	0.5%	5.73%
Members in Families with School Children	0	0%	0%
Members in Families with PSR Children	2	0.8%	6.67%

Once again, for personal commitments, the majority of commitments come from the wage earner group.

A final way of viewing individual commitments to committees and organizations is by age distribution:

Age Distribution of Individual Commitments

Age Group	Individual Commitments (Organizational)	Individual Commitments (Personal)	Total Individual Commitments	Total Number of Commitments
5 – 14	37	0	37	49
15 – 18	10	0	10	16
19 – 24	1	0	1	1
25 – 34	2	0	2	2
35 – 49	21	3	24	31
50 – 64	92	11	103	203
65 and over	101	8	109	284
No age recorded	<u>37</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>78</u>
Totals	301	27	328	664

³ Note that the total is less than the sum of the individuals in each demographic group. This is accounted for by the fact that individuals can be members of more than one group, increasing the overall total.

64.63% of the individuals making commitments are over the age of 50, and these individuals account for 73.34% of all commitments made. When young people are considered, the thirty seven 5 to 14 year olds are primarily altar servers, with a few who are also members of SVDP Youth and 2 involved in music ministry. Of the 15 to 18 year old teens, 11 are active in St. Vincent de Paul youth, 1 is also a lector, 2 involved in music ministry and 8 are members of the youth group.⁴ Individuals who are under 50 years of age make up only 22.56% of those involved in parish organizations, and 50% of these are altar servers. To be fair, no records are kept on the number of parents who serve as classroom volunteers at the school, are active participants in Home and School activities, or who volunteer as coaches or in staffing the concession stand at athletic events. However, the numbers still indicate that we are missing significant opportunities to invite youth and young adults to active participation in our parish.

Totals and Conclusions

The total commitments, both personal and renewed by organizations, are as follows:

Families with Commitments

	Families with Commitments	Percent of Families in Group	Percent of Total Commitments
Total Families	250	30.01%	
Families with wage earners	174	46.15%	69.6%
Families with dependents	117	26.9%	46.8%
School families	21	46.65%	8.4%
PSR families	24	36.92%	9.6%

The number of registered families from which a commitment was made dropped from 262 last year to 250 this year, a 3.3% decline.

Individual Commitments

	Individual Commitments	Percent of Members in Group	Percent of Commitments
Total Parishioners	328	14.26%	
Total Wage Earners	231	25.67%	70.43%
Members in Families with Dependents	157	9.46%	47.87%
Members in Families with School Children	30	15.31%	9.15%
Members in Families with PSR Children	30	12.35%	9.15%

The total number of individuals making a commitment dropped from 345 last year to 328 this year, a decline of 4.92%. The total number of commitments made by individuals dropped from 724 last year to

⁴ The discrepancy seen in 10 total individuals involved with a count of 11 for SVDP Youth is accounted for by a Freshman member who has not yet turned 15. In total, these 10/11 individuals combine for a total of 16 commitments to activities.

664 this year, a decline of 9.17%. While nearly half of the registered families contribute volunteers to parish activities, only about one fourth of registered individuals are actively involved in the parish beyond Sunday Mass attendance. This is significant considering that adults comprise 61.39% of the parish population and that 34.12% of the dependent population is made up of young adults and adults below retirement age.

Some general conclusions seem warranted.

- The process of having organizations renew membership for active members appears to be a valuable tool. It helps streamline the renewal process and has helped, over the last several years, to maintain accurate lists of those who are involved.
- There was a drop off this year of personal commitments to new organizations. This may be due to Fr. Beighlie's inability to find the extra commitment cards in time to have them in the pews for Commitment Sunday this year. Still, late and mail-in commitments have been negligible.
- What is problematic in considering the distribution of parishioner participation is the concentration of volunteers who are over the age of 50. Aside from altar servers, participation in parish activities by those under 35 years of age is very low. Again, we don't have a means of tracking younger adults involved with school and athletics programs, but this still speaks to a need to reconsider stewardship and recruitment efforts to reach younger parishioners.
- While the parish population has remained relatively stable over the last few years, the 9% drop in people actively involved in parish activities over the last year is a cause of concern.



Financial Pledges

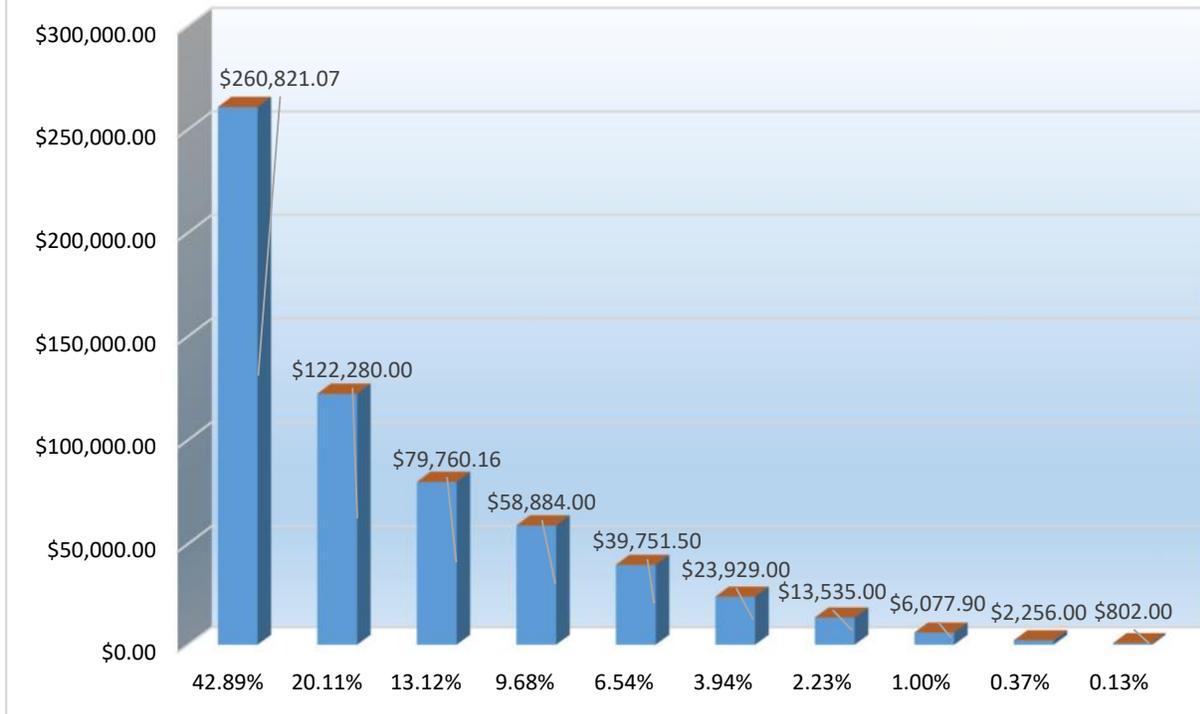
In Fiscal Year 2016-2017 the total collection was \$638,858.70. 518 parishioner households made documented contributions of \$608,096.63. Documented contributions include use of envelopes, written checks, and the use of the online giving service. This represents an increase of 88 households making contributions over last year and an increase of documented contributions of \$3,092.19 over the previous year (\$605,004.44). The 518 households represent 62.6% of all parish families, an increase of 10.8% in family participation.

The Our Sunday Visitor Increased Offertory Campaign was conducted in the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. The three year totals are as follows:

	2014-2015	2015-2106	2016-2017
Households	422	430	518
Contributions	\$549,418.84	\$55,585.60	\$608,096.63
% Change	--	+ 10.1%	+ 10.9%

For fiscal year 2015-2016, the median annual donation was \$875.00. This means that half of the 430 families who made documented donations gave more than \$875.00 and half gave less. This year, the median annual donation dropped to \$600. Four households contributed \$600 for the year. This means that 257 households contributed more than \$600 for the year and 257 households contributed less. The greatest donation from an individual household for this year was \$14,010.00, \$5,915.00 less than the largest contribution last year. The smallest donation from an individual household this year was \$1.00, while the smallest donation last year was \$2.00. When contributions are sorted from most the least, the list of donations can be divided into 10 groups, each representing 10% of the number of households making documented donations. The relative contributions of each group is shown in the following graph.

Distribution of Actual Contributions



Compared to last year, each of the top three groups contributed a slightly higher percentage of the total offertory collection than the corresponding groups for the previous year.

2016-2017	42.89%	20.11%	13.12%
2015-2016	39.97%	18.38%	12.53%

Last year, the top 30% of all donors accounted for 70.88% of the total contributions. This year that number has increased to 76.12% of the total contributions. 30% of all contributing households are contributing more than 75% of all documented donations. By contrast, the next seven categories of donors all showed a decline in percentage of contributions to the overall annual offertory collection.

2016-2017	9.68%	6.54%	3.94%	2.23%	1.00%	0.37%	0.13%
2015-2016	9.74%	7.45%	5.24%	3.38%	2.15%	0.94%	0.23%

Prior to the Increased Offertory Campaign of 2015, we had experienced a steady decline in the number of commitment cards submitted on which a financial pledge was made.

Year	Pledges
2012	92
2013	74
2014	60

A concerted effort was made during last year’s Increased Offertory Campaign to reach as many parish families as possible. As a result of the campaign, 269 registered families made a financial pledge. During the Stewardship Campaigns for the last two years, we attempted, on a smaller scale, to again reach as many families as possible and requested that families fill out a pledge and submit it during Mass on Stewardship Sunday. The results for last year were disappointing. Only 89 families turned in a pledge. The results of this year’s campaign again yielded 89 pledges. This number of pledges remains higher than the results for the two years before the Increased Offertory Campaign, and did not lose any ground on last year’s results.

Family Pledge Information

		Percent of Households	Percent of Pledges	Pledge Amount	Actual 2015-2016	Percent Change
Total Household Pledges:	89	10.68%	100%	\$237,156.00	\$218,893.48	8.34%
Households with Wage Earners Pledges:	22	5.84%	24.72%	\$78,316.00	\$72,472.00	8.06%
Households with Dependents Pledges:	26	5.98%	29.21%	\$86,120.00	\$81,331.04	5.89%
Households with School Children Pledges:	9	19.57%	10.11%	\$35,600.00	\$31,392.00	13.4%
Households with PSR Children Pledges:	5	7.69%	5.62%	\$15,700.00	\$13,615.00	15.31%

While the total number of pledges and the pledges made in each demographic category represent an increase over the actual donations from last year, the total number of responses is too small of a sample to be statistically significant for budget projections. Still, it can be noted that the amount pledged this year was \$10,720 more than last year, an increase of nearly 5%. Further, the actual amount donated by those making pledges this year was \$12,327.24 more than the actual recorded donations for those making pledges last year. This represents a 6% increase in the actual giving of those who made pledges. Further, the amount pledged for Wage Earner Families, Families With Dependents, and Families with School Children all showed an increase. This is also true of the past year’s actual donations for those demographic categories.

What may be a concern, though only approximately 10% of parish families submitted pledges, is that only about 25% of the pledges were made by families with wage earners. This means that approximately 75% of pledges were made from households with no recorded wage earner, households likely to be retirees.

Conclusions



Actual offertory donations from fiscal year 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 shows an increase of about 10%. This matches the projected increase when implementing an Increased Offertory Campaign. Actual contributions from families for the 2016-2017 fiscal year show an increase of almost 11%. Pledges for the current year indicate an increase in donations, but the limited number of pledges returned make it impossible to make any reliable predictions about funds that should be available to the parish for this fiscal year. Again this year, the marked decrease in support for parish fundraising

activities argues for continued close monitoring of parish expenditures into the foreseeable future.

Recommendations

- While the parish has maintained a relatively stable population and has recently begun to show some signs of small growth, the overall age of the parish still remains relatively high. It is recommended to expand marketing efforts in place for the school to a parish wide effort to welcome new parishioners. Both the Strategic Plan of 2012 and the recent viability study indicate a need for greater outreach and evangelization efforts. Such efforts would not only contribute to the growth of Our Lady Queen of Peace, but would engage the parish the mission of the Archdiocese and universal Church.
- A concerted effort needs to be made to promote programs that meet the needs of teens and younger adults and incorporate our younger population more firmly into the life of the parish.
- Marketing efforts to promote the school have netted an increase in non-parishioner/non-Catholic students, and this is welcomed. More aggressive marketing needs to be directed to parishioner families among whom the school is significantly under-utilized.
- Concerted effort needs to be made to reverse the disturbing trend of enrollment loss in the PSR program. Immediate steps need to be taken to invite and encourage families who have not re-enrolled their children in the program to bring them back.
- Especially in the PSR program, attention needs to be paid to children from families who are not currently registered. These families need to be encouraged to renew their registration status and invited to participate in parish life.
- The practice of providing membership renewal for parishioners in various activities and organizations by organization chairs should be continued. Beyond this, there is a significant need to reach out to teens and younger adults in the parish to invite them to take on ministries and become more active in parish life. There is also a need to listen to these teens and younger adults to determine what their needs are and what type of programs would meet those needs. It does no good to invite them to be a part of organizations and activities that do not interest them or feed their need to grow in the practice of their faith. The numbers indicate a significant failure to reach and involve most parishioners under the age of 35.
- While the more intense Offertory Campaign of two years ago has proven to be successful, without such an intense campaign response has again dropped off considerably – even when asking families to submit pledges in Church. There is a need to develop some type of a campaign that can be repeated periodically that clearly makes the needs of the parish known to parishioners and engages them in wanting to be a part of supporting and enhancing the parish and parish life.

