

Pastoral Council – February 16, 2011

Interesting background information from recent research from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University:

- The average tuition for grade-Catholic schools is \$3,383; the average per-pupil cost is \$5,436.
- 11% of Catholic elementary schools have 500 or more students, 14% have 350-499, 36% have 200-349. 10% have less than 100 students.

- 33% of Catholic parishes have more than 1200 households, up from 25% just 10 years ago.
- 30% of all parishes indicated a budget deficit in 2009
- Surveys indicate that the larger a parish, the smaller the per-household contribution. With fewer than 200 households, the average contribution is \$612. For a parish with more than 1200 households the average is \$333. The average contribution decreases with the increase in the size of the parish.
- The average parish staff (ministry and non-ministry personnel) has more than eight members.

- The single most important factor driving future changes in the priesthood is age. In the 1960s and 1970s about 1 in 10 diocesan priest active in ministry was 65 or older. In 2009, 33% of all active diocesan priests were 65 or older.
- Statistics show that the number of priest in the United States has been declining at about 12 to 14 percent per decade since 1985. In the next few years it is expected that the number will decline at 17%
- Many compare the Church in the United States today with the way it functioned in the 1950s and 1960s when there were large numbers of priests ministering. Yet statistically, these two decades were the exception rather than the rule and in no other period has this country experienced the abundance of clergy as in the 1950s and 1960s.