

THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

Giving parishes the tools
to answer the hard questions
and cultivate the Next Generation



Catholic Leadership
INSTITUTE



DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU

As a leader of your local parish community, do you ever ask yourself where your parishioners are?

Do you know **who participates** in your faith community? Why are they coming?

Are your people **growing spiritually**? Or has their spirituality stalled?

Do you know what you're doing that feeds their spiritual growth? Could you be doing more to help them **grow in faith**?

Most importantly, do you know if the time and energy being spent by the parish is actually **making a difference**?



39%

want to
grow in
their faith

Of Parishioners who have taken the Disciple Maker Index Survey, 39% self-reported that while the pace of their spiritual growth is growing, they would like to grow more.



OUR PARISHIONERS ARE?



Did You Know?

31% attend
Mass
weekly

There are 58 million registered Catholics in the United States, but only 18 Million attend Mass weekly. That's only 31 percent.

6.8% = 80%
of Catholics of donations

The majority of financial contributions to the church come from a small percentage of people. In fact, 80% of all contributions are made by just 6.8% of parishioners.

↓ 8.3 million people

Generational changes in the US in the next 10-20 years will represent an estimated loss of 8.3 million people from the Church.



WHAT IS THE DISCIPLE MAK

The Disciple Maker Index is a survey tool that invites parishioners to reflect on where they are on their journey of discipleship and identify their parish's effectiveness in supporting that journey.

Disciple Maker Index Survey 2018
Catholic Journey 19%

How do you identify yourself?

- ☒ I am Catholic
- ☐ I was Catholic once, but no longer consider myself Catholic
- ☐ I am not Catholic

Which of the following best describes your path to Catholicism?

- ☒ I was baptized Catholic as a child
- ☐ I converted to the Catholic faith

Which of the following best describes where you are on your Catholic journey?

- ☐ I consider myself Catholic, though faith is not a significant part of my life
- ☐ I practice my Catholic faith, but do not know Jesus personally like a friend
- ☐ I have personally encountered Jesus Christ and am growing as a disciple
- ☐ My relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important relationship in my life

Utilizing a unique, cutting-edge technology, the tool gathers comprehensive feedback about parishioners' spiritual growth through 75 questions. The resulting insight is invaluable: it enables parish leadership to make data-driven decisions regarding priorities that will ultimately help parishioners grow in faith.

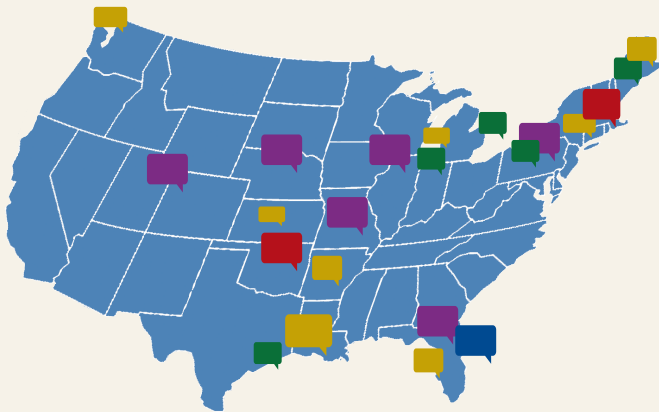
Do you know if the time and energy being spent by your parish is actually making a difference? Through the Disciple Maker Index, find out how you can best help your unique parishioners to grow in faith.





KER INDEX?

As of 2018, the tool has been used in more than 400 parishes in 20 dioceses throughout the United States and Canada. More than 100,000 parishioners have participated, providing a rich resource of helpful benchmarks from parishes of all settings and sizes.



Why participate?

Your parishioner's responses will give you a wealth of information and feedback. The data will be an invaluable asset to you and your key parish leaders. You'll begin to have clarity and a clear path towards setting priorities and goals to grow your local parish community.

ENGAGE

The Disciple Maker Index proactively engages parishioners and supports their growth as disciples of Jesus Christ.

MAKE DECISIONS

The DMI provides feedback for parishes to make decisions on relevant metrics and gives the ability to benchmark their efforts against similar parishes around the country.

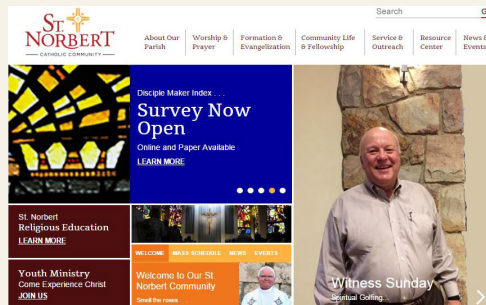
THRIVE

The DMI allows you to know what to say "no" to, so you can say the bigger "yes" to the change that will enable you to thrive.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Survey Administration

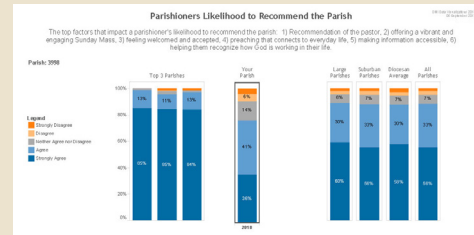
CLI will administer the survey in your parish and provide you with marketing and communication templates to support you in getting your parishioners involved.



Note: The survey is primarily available online, however, paper copies are also provided to the parish for parishioners to submit their feedback.

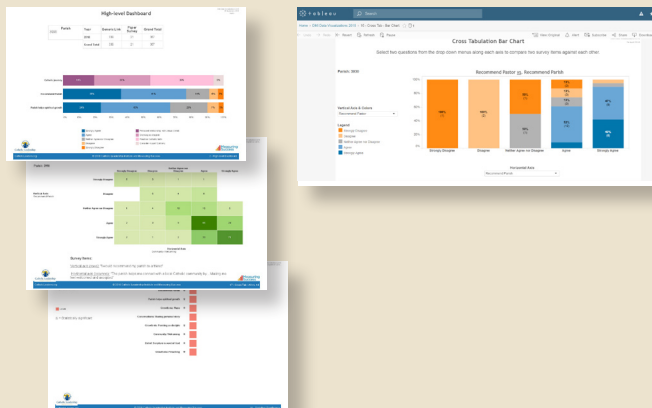
Context for Your Data

To help clarify what your data means, you'll be able to compare your data with national trends, other parishes in your dioceses, and the top three performing parishes in the country.



Comprehensive and Useful Reports

See your results in an easy-to-read report and then dive deeper into responses of interest through interactive software.



Faithful and Expert Consultation

You'll receive guidance from Catholic Leadership Institute on how to interpret results and create a plan to translate data into action.



SAMPLE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Translated into ten languages, this 75-question survey is a way to paint a picture of where our parishes are today and to envision and create parishes of tomorrow.

Here are some examples of questions for parishioners who participate in the survey:

Attitude and Belief Questions:

Stage and pace of spiritual growth, personal beliefs, parish effectiveness in helping people connect with a community and helping them evangelize

"Which of the following best describes where you are on your Catholic journey?"

- ☐ I consider myself Catholic, though faith is not a significant part of my life
- ☐ I practice my Catholic faith, but do not know Jesus personally like a friend
- ☐ I have personally encountered Jesus Christ and am growing as a disciple
- ☐ My relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important relationship in my life"

Participation Questions:

How frequently do parishioners participate in various parish activities

"How often did you over the past year...shared my personal witness story with another person?"

"How often did you over the past year...participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?"

Relationship/Satisfaction Questions:

Parishioners' satisfaction with their parish, pastor, and parish activities

"My parish helps me grow spiritually as a Catholic"

"I would recommend my parish to a friend"

Demographic Questions

Gender, age, ethnicity, etc to understand who is responding

"Is this parish your primary place of worship?"

"Which best describes your approach to providing financial support for your parish?"



PARISH IMPACT IN THEIR

Prioritizing Hospitality and Stewardship



St. Anne Parish in the Diocese of Tulsa focused on rooting the parish in a spirituality of Stewardship, and fostering a culture of Encountering and Welcoming.

In four years, the number of registered families increased by more than 50% and the weekly offertory more than doubled.

“The DMI was a wonderful tool that allowed us to concretely identify ways in which we could better meet the spiritual needs of our people. In responding to these needs we have seen a profound growth in the spiritual lives of our people and in the vitality of our community.”

– Rev. Gary Kastl,
Diocese of Tulsa

Forming Disciples

A participating parish created a goal to improve on the question “the parish supports my formation as disciples of Jesus Christ”.

Their action plan from 2014 included fostering an encounter with Jesus for more parishioners. Using the ACTS retreat format, the parish had 315 people attend in a two-year-period. They then connected these participants in small faith-sharing groups.

The impact in the parish was a dramatic 50% increase in parishioners who strongly agreed the parish helps them grow spiritually, improving from 24% to 36%, now well above the typical average of 25%.



OWN WORDS

Sharing Personal Witness Stories



St. Raymond of Penafort Parish in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia focused on teaching their people to share their personal witness story with others.

The percentage of parishioners who Strongly Agree the parish helps them do this increased from 33% to 39%, which is more than double the national average of 15%.

"This was our second time participating in the DMI so we were able to see the areas we made improvements (increased participation in Sacramental Confession, increased number of people feeling equipped to talk about their own faith; increased engagement in parish outreach) and also learned of areas that will be a priority in the months and years to come (increasing participation in devotions and daily prayer as well as retreat experience; more concrete opportunities to witness our faith and invite others to the parish, increase those who identify their relationship with Christ as the priority of their lives). The data that comes from the DMI will help us continue to grow so that souls will be saved and people's lives transformed in Christ!"

– Rev. Christopher M. Walsh,
Archdiocese of Philadelphia





MORE IMPACT STORIES

Belief in the Eucharist

This particular parish launched a year of Eucharistic renewal to increase their participants' belief of the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Throughout the year, the parish held four mini-retreats focusing on the Eucharist.

Additionally, for four consecutive weeks, homilies were preached about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist during Mass.

In the parish's previously established faith-sharing groups, at least one of the questions pertained to the Eucharist each week.

The parish's belief went from 70% strongly agree to 77%.



Growing as Disciples

Msgr. Robert Morris led St. Catherine of Siena Parish of the Diocese of St. Petersburg through a pastoral planning process.

The parish created a priority on the formation of disciples.

In just two years they saw an 11% increase of parishioners responding they are "growing as disciples" and a 10% increase of parishioners responding that the parish teaches them how to share their personal witness story.



"Catholic Leadership Institute helped me to stay on task and have a mission-oriented parish. With the guidance of Catholic Leadership Institute, we formed a Pastoral Council that focuses on this mission and recommends next steps in pastoral planning. Our staff and ministries respond by implementing our priorities and goals. The clarification of roles and responsibilities have been helpful in my position as pastor."

*—Msgr. Robert Morris,
Diocese of St. Petersburg*



"I've been very grateful for the partnership with Catholic Leadership Institute over the last decade.

Catholic Leadership Institute asked us to pilot the Disciple Maker Index with several parishes and we found the experience to be very enlightening and enriching, especially as we seek to understand where our people are in their journeys of faith and how our parishes can best support their growth.

An authentically Catholic tool, the Disciple Maker Index is a great way to help a parish (and a diocese) understand its strengths and opportunities in missionary discipleship."

***— Most Rev. David Zubik,
Diocese of Pittsburgh***



Purpose

Catholic Leadership Institute provides bishops, priests, deacons and lay persons in the Roman Catholic Church with world-class, pastoral leadership formation and consulting services that strengthen their confidence and competence in ministry, enabling them to articulate a vision for their local church, to call forth the gifts of those they lead, and to create more vibrant faith communities rooted in Jesus Christ.

Core Values

Love of Christ and the Church
Highest Standards of Excellence
Care for the Individual

Vision

We see a world where each individual understands their God-given mission in life and is doing their best to fulfill it; a world where Catholic leaders are influential voices in society; a world where Jesus' example of loving, servant leadership is modeled in every family, workplace, parish, and community.



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