

**Survey on the Current State of the Diocese of Pittsburgh**  
**Directed to the Clergy of the Church of Pittsburgh**

The purpose of this survey is to MEASURE THE PULSE OF CLERGY IN THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH ON A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL/ANONYMOUS BASIS regarding the current state of the diocese and what changes need to be made to strengthen and revitalize our local Church. You are asked to assess how the diocese, under The Most Rev. David A Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, and his curia, has performed generally and in three specific areas: (1) diocesan reorganization of parishes as part of *On Mission for the Church Alive*, (2) handling of abuse allegations against clergy, and (3) the shortage of men entering the seminary. **Please complete this survey and return it in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to ECOP, P.O. Box 81246, Pittsburgh, PA 15217 by May 7, 2019.** If you do not have knowledge on, or do not wish to answer, any given question, just respond N/K or leave it blank. If you wish, you may type your responses on separate pages.

**A. Current State of the Diocese**

1a. Has the Bishop of Pittsburgh outlined a clear vision for revitalizing and growing the Church of Pittsburgh? (Y/N \_\_\_\_\_) If so, do you agree with that vision? (Y/N \_\_\_\_\_)

1b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If there was one change you could make in the diocese to bring local Catholics back to the Church, what would it be?

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3. What are some changes that you think should be made to increase your voice and the voice of other priests and deacons in the diocese going forward? Please be as specific as possible.

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\_\_\_\_\_

4a What are the main reasons why offertory collections are down? Please circle all that apply.

- (a) Lay members of the Church feel otherwise powerless to effect change in the diocese
- (b) Lay members are concerned that there is insufficient financial transparency
- (c) Lay members are angered by *On Mission for the Church Alive* issues
- (d) The release of the Grand Jury report in August 2018
- (e) Other

4b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. On Mission for the Church Alive Reorganization**

5. For each item, place a check mark in the box that best describes your response. If you do not have knowledge on, or do not wish to answer, a question, please choose N/K or leave it blank.

**Regarding the *On Mission for Church Alive* reorganization of parishes, has the Bishop of Pittsburgh:**

	Question	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	N/K
a.	handled it with forthrightness?					
b.	acknowledged problems created?					
c.	handled it with sensitivity?					
d.	sufficiently kept laity informed?					
e.	treated clergy with due respect?					
f.	sufficiently involved laity in decisions?					
g.	timed priest transfers appropriately?					
h.	been accountable for results?					

6a. Has the Bishop of Pittsburgh obtained sufficient information from pastors and their parishioners before making decisions regarding transferring some pastors while leaving others in place? (Y/N \_\_\_\_\_)

6b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What changes would you like to see made by the Bishop of Pittsburgh to address *On Mission* issues?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

8a. How would you rate the level of confidence that you have in the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) and its parish services office that the Bishop of Pittsburgh hired to oversee and plan the *On Mission for The Church Alive* reorganization?

- (a) No confidence
- (b) Minimal level of confidence
- (c) Moderate level of confidence
- (d) High level of confidence

8b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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**C. Handling of Allegations of Child Sex Abuse**

9. For each item, please place a checkmark in the box that best describes your response. If you do not have knowledge on, or do not wish to answer, a question, please choose N/K or leave it blank.

**Regarding the allegations of child sex abuse, has the Bishop of Pittsburgh:**

	Question	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	N/K
a.	handled it with forthrightness?					
b.	acknowledged the problem?					
c.	handled it with urgency?					
d.	handled it with sensitivity?					
e.	sufficiently kept clergy & laity informed?					
f.	balanced the rights of all involved?					
g.	sufficiently involved laity in decisions?					

	Question	Yes	No	N/K
h.	protected victims appropriately?			
i.	supported survivors appropriately?			
j.	reported accusations in a timely manner?			
k.	protected the Diocese more than victims?			
l.	protected abusers from accountability?			

10a. With respect to allegations of sexual abuse of children by priests in the Diocese of Pittsburgh that became public last summer and fall, do you think that the pastoral letter issued by the Bishop of Pittsburgh in March, 2019 is an adequate response? (Y/N\_\_\_\_\_)

10b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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**D. Challenges at St. Paul's Seminary and in the Priesthood**

11. The Diocese of Pittsburgh's St. Paul's Seminary in Crafton has had six rectors in ten years and similar turnover among vice rectors and faculty. To what do you attribute this high rate of turnover?

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12a. Do you think the Diocese of Pittsburgh has sufficient resources (financial, managerial, number of priests dedicated entirely for formation) to run and manage St. Paul's Seminary? (Y/N \_\_\_\_\_)

12b. Please explain.

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13. St. Paul's Seminary's enrollment (currently seven men) is significantly below that seen in other dioceses. To what do you attribute this shortage? What ideas, if any, do you have to strengthen and grow the clergy of Pittsburgh?

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14a. Are there any issues that should be of concern to the Church that may be hindering prospective young men from entering the priesthood? (Y/N\_\_\_\_\_)

14b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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15a. Do you believe that there is a need for whistleblower protections for priests, seminarians and/or diocesan employees so that they can speak without fear of retribution? (Y/N\_\_\_\_\_)

15b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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**E. Bishop Zubik and his Curia**

16a. How would you rate the level of confidence that you have in Bishop David A. Zubik and his curia to lead the Diocese of Pittsburgh?

- (a) No confidence
- (b) Minimal level of confidence
- (c) Moderate level of confidence
- (d) High level of confidence

16b. Please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17a. Has Bishop Zubik been well-served by the people who make up the curia around him? (Y/N\_\_\_\_\_)

17b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18a. How would you rate the level of awareness by Bishop Zubik and his curia of a breach that many believe now exists between the laity and the leaders of the Diocese of Pittsburgh?

- (a) No level of awareness
- (b) Minimal level of awareness
- (c) Moderate level of awareness
- (d) High level of awareness

18b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**F. Moving Forward**

19. How can the laity be of greater help to the clergy on the front lines of ministry to revitalize the Church and participate in Catholic evangelization in a real and meaningful way?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20a. Do you agree that if the laity and clergy on the front lines of ministry come together as a united voice, as some priests have called for publicly, we collectively will have a better chance of effecting positive change and addressing urgent problems facing our diocese? (Y/N\_\_\_\_\_)

20b. Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL: Please CIRCLE whether you are a PRIEST or DEACON in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.**

**Thank you for completing this survey.**

**Please return to ECOP P.O. Box 81246 Pittsburgh PA 15217 by May 7, 2019.**