

# WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT THE CHURCH

## Part I

Directions: Mark each item on the survey according to the following scale :

- 4 -- I strongly agree
- 3 -- I agree
- 2 -- I disagree
- 1 -- I strongly disagree

- \_\_\_ Q1. I believe the church should speak out about the injustices in our community and world.
- \_\_\_ Q2. I believe the church should be like a fine-working team that gives all of its members a sense of identity.
- \_\_\_ Q3. I believe that the rituals and symbols of the church are important in helping me to meet and know God.
- \_\_\_ Q4. I believe that it is essential that the church continue to teach its members through preaching, classes, faith-sharing groups, and the like.
- \_\_\_ Q5. I believe that the church is best identified by the pope, bishops, and priests.
- \_\_\_ Q6. I believe that richer parishes should share their Sunday collections with poorer parishes.
- \_\_\_ Q7. I believe that all the members of the church are vital to its overall success.
- \_\_\_ Q8. I believe that the Eucharist is the strongest statement of the church's identity.
- \_\_\_ Q9. I believe an important task of the church is to share the good news of Jesus with others.
- \_\_\_ Q10. I believe that the *magisterium* (the teaching authority of the church in the pope and bishops) has a function in maintaining the truths of faith through the centuries.
- \_\_\_ Q11. I believe that the church is best represented by the poor and those who serve the poor.
- \_\_\_ Q12. I believe the church depends on me to contribute to its mission and goals.
- \_\_\_ Q13. I believe that sacraments, prayer, and worship are things the church does well.
- \_\_\_ Q14. I believe one of my main tasks as a Christian is to talk about my faith, to show by my daily life that I believe in Jesus and his teachings.
- \_\_\_ Q15. I believe the appointed leaders of the church insure that the gospel is preached accurately from generation to generation.

## **Part II**

You are to decide on how to distribute \$40 million dollars in the diocese's Legacy of Faith Campaign. You are given five options. How much will you put into each option?

**Option A. Catholic Charities:** Programs for people with addictions, mentally ill, in poverty, and with crisis pregnancies. Examples are homeless centers, soup kitchens, Women's Care Centers.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ million

**Option B. Strengthening parish activities and clubs.** Examples are construction of social centers, retreat houses for families and groups, visitation programs for shut-ins.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ million

**Option C. Worship activities.** Examples are renovation of older churches, church additions to growing parishes, sponsoring diocese-wide masses and a eucharistic conference.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ million

**Option D. Evangelization.** Examples are spiritual development programs, Campus/Young Adult and Youth ministries, television and radio programs.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ million

**Option E. Vocations and diocesan offices.** Examples are supporting seminary training of future priests, diocese services such as the Marriage Tribunal, recruitment of priests and nuns, dioceses offices for music and liturgy.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ million

**\$ 40 million total**

### Part III

Copy the number (1 to 4) that you assigned to each question in Part I.

___Q1	___Q2	___Q3	___Q4	___Q5
___Q6	___Q7	___Q8	___Q9	___Q10
___Q11	___Q12	___Q13	___Q14	___Q15

Copy the dollar amount in millions (0 to 40) that you assigned to each option in Part II.

___A	___B	___C	___D	___E
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Add the vertical columns, i.e.  $Q1+Q6+Q11+A$ , and list the sum below. All sums should be between 3 and 52.

___ Servant	___ Community	___ Sacrament	___ Herald	___ Institution
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The results above indicate how you rank five images of the Church. There are no right or wrong answers. Each image is a different way that we use to understand God.

<b>Servant</b>	The church has a mission to heal and reconcile as Jesus did, to serve the needs of the least sisters and brothers.
<b>Community</b>	Represented by Jesus' words, "I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5). The image of community speaks of our common fellowship in the Holy Spirit
<b>Sacrament</b>	The church is a sign of Christ's presence. When it celebrates sacraments, prayer, worship, sacrifices, and service of others, it brings Christ's light to the world.
<b>Herald</b>	A herald is one who is charged with announcing an important message. Jesus was a herald par excellence, sharing the good news of the coming of God's kingdom. The church's task is to continue this mission.
<b>Institution</b>	The church as an institution governs through service and sanctifies (makes holy) by administering the sacraments and sacramentals.