



What is the purpose of a Deanery Needs Assessment?

- ♦ to identify critical service needs in a deanery that may be addressed by local parishes, or through collaboration with Catholic Charities
- ♦ to provide meaningful opportunities for Catholic parishioners to engage in service to those in need in their community



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Youngstown
Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Can Catholic Charities help?

Upon request, Catholic Charities can provide the following to parishes and/or deaneries:

- ♦ technical assistance with the data collection process
- ♦ practical input regarding identified priorities
- ♦ help with project development, expansion plans and evaluation criteria

Call the Diocesan Department of Catholic Charities at 330-744-8451

“In order that we might continue to grow in our efforts at being a Servant Church, I am asking every deanery under the direction of the Dean to begin a needs assessment of their respective territory with the hope of reaching out to those in most need. We cannot leave anyone behind.”

— *Testify to the Light*
Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown

Deanery Needs Assessment

The Deanery Needs Assessment begins at the parish level.

How does a parish get started?

Below is a process that can be applied as suggested or adapted to meet the needs of a parish or deanery:

1 Assemble a Parish Needs Assessment Committee

The pastor of each parish within the deanery assembles a group of 5-7 parishioners to serve as the Parish Needs Assessment Committee (PNAC) and designates a chairperson.

2 Schedule a Parish Needs Assessment Committee Meeting

The PNAC meets to review Bishop Bonnar's Pastoral Letter, *Testify to the Light*, and draft a local needs assessment process that is feasible for your parish.

3 Collect Data

One or more methods may be used. Suggestions include:

- ♦ Use **focus groups** to discuss community assets, resources and needs, and ways the parish might respond to the identified concerns.
- ♦ Develop **surveys** that can be distributed to parishioners and members of the community to gather additional information on needs/concerns.
- ♦ Host a **parish/community forum** to explore needs/concerns in greater detail in a large group setting.
- ♦ Review **existing resources**. If another credible community group completed a recent needs assessment, obtain a copy to reference during the data collection process.

4 Formulate Priorities

The PNAC formulates a maximum of 3 parish priority needs/concerns to present at the deanery meeting.

5 Present to Deanery

Pastors and PNAC chairpersons gather to present individual parish needs/concerns. A total of 3-5 priorities are identified to carry forward by the deanery. Leadership teams are assembled for each priority.

6 Develop Action Plan & Method for On-going Evaluation

Leadership teams develop action plans for each priority, as well as a plan for evaluating success, and project growth/expansion, if necessary.