

QUESTION #1

A. WHAT SURPRISED ME ABOUT THIS INFORMATION?

- Surprised of how old the priests really are.
- Surprised at how long it takes to become a priest of a parish
- How few deacons there are.
- Number of priests that are of retirement age and active
- Inconsistent numbers coming into priesthood (2)
- Seminary numbers are unpredictable.
- Losing 2/3 of our priests in 15 years.
- 25 are more than 60
- Surprised by how many missions there are.
- Surprised the issue appears to be just getting addressed now. (1)
- Priests are aging but travel and parish responsibilities continue considerable travel, often in adverse weather on bad roads.

B. WHAT CONCERNS ME ABOUT THIS INFO?

- Eucharist is so central to our celebration; bringing communion is not enough. (7).
- People will be further detached from our community if mass was limited. (1)
- 62% will be retired in 10 years (2)
- Generation gap between youth and priests (1)
- Traveling of priests- safety
- Many priest are struggling with health issues.
- Priests with multiple sites to be sacramental and administrators
- Loss of Sacraments because there are not enough priests (4)
- Not enough priests to serve parish which will result in the consolidation/shutting down of parishes (2)
- Potential for diminished quality of service.
- Fewer number o men entering the seminary. Function of culture, education, society, and marriage (2)
- It's too late

C. WHAT ACTIONS DOES IT SUGGEST FOR THE FUTURE?

- Reexamine approach to vocations (2)
- Bring up the idea of vocations to the general public through prayers and personal interactions (4).
- Reframing of who priests are in our lives. More positive PR about priests.
- Prepare, develop the laity for providing liturgy of the word, ex; PLLMII and more focus than deacon program. (5)
- Foster Independent Leadership/ownership I the parish councils/staff. (2)
- Form satellites for ach region to send ministry/resources to each parish.
- Keep all parish communities intact-even without a resident priest. (3)
- Look at geographically how parishes can share priests & resources.
- More lay ministers (1)
- Technology –using it to bring mass tom any (podcast) (1)
- Reverse mission work (priests from Guatemala)

- Expanding priest boundaries (2)
- Lay involvement increase; administrators, liturgical celebrations without priests. (5)
- Look at other dioceses in the country for ideas and solutions on how they solved the same thing. (2)
- Keeping parishes and communities intact. (1)
- Collaborate and share resources with surrounding parishes.
- Empower lay ministers/administers; allow priests to focus on Sacramental care. (6)
- Quality Catholic Education (2)
- Encourage vocations, better dialog with young (3)
- Train more deacons (3)
- Establish home churches/base communities (1)
- Recruiting and educating future priests (3)
- Increase role of laity (3)
- Diocese must decide where “full-serve” parishes will be located, how staffed, what facilities are necessary (mega churches) (2)
- Involve and rely on more lay ministry (7)
- Move to precepts of “original church” community led guided from afar (5)
- More deacons
- Begin discussions regarding priest shortage specifically as related to women in ministry and married priests.

QUESTION #2: One less Priest in Deanery

- One Missoula parish becomes a mission to two other parishes. Lolo Mission to Stevensville.
- Combine Alberton & Superior churches so Frenchtown priest can help out another parish.
- Increase # of lay ministers and Administrators.
- Combine Stevensville and Florence and Stevensville can serve Lolo.
- Eliminate one Missoula Church.
- Could one priest @St. Francis serve other parishes? Ex. Could they serve Bonner/Seeley?
- Do Missoula priests need to share duties at more than one parish?
- Could Stevensville be served by Hamilton?
- Draw one away from St. Francis
- One priest for Blessed Trinity and St. Anthony’s
- One priest for Hamilton, Darby, Stevi and add Florence to Lolo mission.
- Bonner as a mission of Missoula
- Connect Lolo & Florence (close Blessed Trinity)
- Seeley as main parish (serve Condon)
- Absorb Bonner as part of Missoula
- Add Florence to Missoula as a mission
- Give Condon to Kalispell Deanery.
- Move Lolo to Stevensville/Florence- Keep parish community open.

- Blessed Trinity and St. Anthony's to share one priest by finding right priest for this position, two priest go away, find one new priest, limit animosity between parishes, increased laity roles.
- Need to focus on the role/responsibility of the pries with lay people fulfilling other roles. This would be rat her than territorial or closures.
- Consensus: Bonner no longer a parish.
- Stevensville as part of Missoula parish.
- Make St. Ann's (Bonner) a mission under St. Francis. Missions in Seeley Lake and Swan Valley also fall under St. Francis
- Make Frenchtown a mission (with existing missions following under sT. Francis.

LOSS OF TWO PRIESTS IN DEANERY

- Pick 2 of the above-Can parishes give up an expected Sat/Sun Liturgy? Provide weekday services to mission.
- In all losses-training and support for parish administrators must be provide with a goal of keeping current communities intact if at all possible.
- Choose from any two above.
- Darby-Hamilton-Stevensville share one priest
- Lolo and Florence served by shared priest from Saint Francis Xavier.
- Blessed and St. Anthony share one priest.
- Look at Geographical distances and feasibility along geographic lines for deanery.
- Make Blessed Trinity a mission under St. Anthony's
- Move Spirit of Christ Mission (Lolo) under St. Mary Parish (Stevensville)
- Close St. Joseph Mission (Florence)