Diocese of Richmond
Richmond, Virginia

Data Study
Final Report
June 2015
I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

A. General Population Projections

1. The Diocese of Richmond, unique in its three Vicariates or regions, is changing – growing in some areas, but experiencing contraction and decline in others. The primary projected growth areas of significant increases are in the James City County, York County, Suffolk, and Chesapeake areas in the Eastern Vicariate; Chesterfield County, Hanover County, Henrico County, Harrisonburg city, Albemarle County and Augusta County in the Central Vicariate; and Montgomery County, Bedford County, Roanoke County and Franklin city in the Western Vicariate.

2. General population in the cities and counties of the Diocese is projected to increase 23% (1,146,388 persons) between 2010 and 2040.

3. The Eastern Vicariate general population within ten counties and seven independent cities, is projected to increase 17% by 2040, adding 285,574 persons.

4. The Central Vicariate, comprised of 28 counties and 11 independent cities, has its general population projected to grow 38% by 2040, adding another 698,869 persons.

5. General population in the Western Vicariate, a more rural area, is projected to increase 11% in its 36 counties and 12 independent cities with another 161,945 persons by 2040.

6. In terms of race and ethnicity as a percentage of the total population, the diocesan profile by 2030 is projected to be 63% White, 23% Black/African American, 5% Asian, and 9% Other (multi-racial, native American). The Hispanic population growth is expected to move from 8.9% of the total population to 19% by 2030.

7. The birth rate throughout the Diocese has been in decline since 2008. The greatest impact on growth throughout the Diocese is in-migration as opposed to natural increase (number of births relative to deaths).

8. Population throughout the Diocese is aging. The highest number and percentage of projected growth to 2030 is in the 60 year old and older age group and in virtually every county and city. However, there appears to be more growth among the younger age groups (30 years and younger) projected after 2020. The most significant increases in almost all age groups are among the counties and cities specifically named in statement #1 above.

9. Public school enrollment trends from 2010 to 2014 at both the elementary and high school levels show decline – a decrease of 0.2% for the elementary level and a 2.9% drop for high school. The only increase experienced was in the Eastern Vicariate elementary schools (0.1%) and in the Central Vicariate elementary schools (1.5%). A decreasing enrollment trend reflects the overall aging of the population and decrease in the number of school age children diocesan-wide. This trend of fewer school-age children is projected to continue through 2030, and in a number of areas, to 2040.

10. Median household income levels indicate the general levels of affluence or poverty in a population. Overall in the Diocese, 20% of the population in 2013 had a median household income of $100,000 or more. A total of 32% had median incomes of $50,000 to $100,000, and 49% had median income levels below $50,000. The Eastern Vicariate had slightly higher levels of income than the Diocesan levels, as did the Central Vicariate. The Western Vicariate, due primarily to its rural environment, had median income levels of $50,000 or less for 58% of the population.
B. Catholic Demographics

1. (Note: *In the compilation and analysis of parish data received from the Diocese, it is noted that in several cases, numbers were missing, or those provided were inconsistent.*)

2. In 2010, Catholics accounted for approximately 5% of the total general population in the Diocese.

3. From 2010 to 2014, the number of parish families in the Diocese grew by 1% (981 families). However, the number of parishioners decreased by 1% (2,126 parishioners).

4. In the Eastern Vicariate, parish families increased 3% (1,114 families), but like the Diocese, lost 1% of its parishioners (1,109). The Western Vicariate decreased in both families (-4%, -540) and parishioners (-2%, -636). The Central Vicariate gained families (1%, 407 families) and lost parishioners (<1%, 160). More families with fewer members may be the trend for the future as the population ages and has fewer children.

5. Catholics in the Diocese are still predominantly White (64%) with 3% Black/African American, 8% Asian, 12% Other and 14% Hispanic among the 238,516 parishioners in 2014.

6. Similar to the general population, Catholic parishioners are also aging. From 2010 to 2014, the 0 to 5 year olds declined 13.3%; the 6 to 17 year olds grew by 0.5%; 18 to 30 year olds dropped by 4.3%; 31 to 59 year olds decreased by 1.1% and the 60 years and older age group grew by 11.1%. The Central and Western Vicariates experienced even greater aging of parishioners with higher levels of decline in the other age groups. The only significant exception is the 60 years and older age group.

7. Mass attendance from 2012 to 2013 increased in approximately 51% of parishes for that one year based on available data. (note: *Mass attendance numbers are missing for some parishes and inconsistent in a handful*)

8. It appears in some cases, that the small seating capacity/growing Mass attendance numbers are addressed by increasing the number of Masses.

9. Sacramental participation (Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation, and Marriage) has been declining overall throughout the Diocese. While there are some parishes or LPA’s where some growth is taking place, it is not in large numbers. In the Diocese, the average number of Baptisms per year (2010 to 2014) was 3,135; the average number of First Eucharist recipients (children) was 3,361; for Confirmation an average of 2,526 per year; and Marriages averaged 663 per year among all of the 146 parishes. Those numbers then average to about 21 Baptisms per parish/mission; 23 First Eucharist recipients per parish/mission; 17 Confirmations per parish/mission; and 4.5 marriages per parish/mission.

10. Religious education enrollment has been declining as well since 2010. At the elementary level, enrollment in the Diocese has decreased 13% (2,170 children). For the high school level, enrollment is down 19% (1,134 students). The most significant decline was experienced in the Central Vicariate parishes.
C. Catholic School Enrollment Trend

1. Overall enrollment in the Diocese for grades Pre-Kindergarten to 12th decreased 2% (200 students) between 2009-10 and 2014-15. The elementary grades declined 4% (252 students) during this time, and the high school enrollment dropped 4% (72 students) as well. The PreK enrollment grew by 22% (124 children), but their presence did not always translate into higher Kindergarten numbers.

2. Schools in the Eastern Vicariate experienced the largest enrollment decreases at the elementary level (7%, 215 students) and high school level (5%, 37 students). Central Vicariate elementary schools gained 1% enrollment, but decreased 1% at the high school level. The number of elementary students in the Western Vicariate declined by 7% (52 students), while the high school numbers dropped 14% (31 students). Total enrollment in 2014-15 for all grades was 8,164 students.

3. In 2014-15, 75% of the students in the Catholic schools were Catholic. For each Vicariate, the percentage of Catholic students was: Eastern – 83%, Central – 69%, and Western – 67%.

4. The majority of students in the Catholic schools are predominantly White (67% to 77%), with 3% to 9% Black/African American students, 4% to 11% Asian, and 6% to 10% Hispanic students over the three Vicariates. Approximately 4% to 10% are noted as Other.

D. Diocesan Campus Ministry

1. The diocesan Campus Ministry program currently staffs 20 university/college campuses. The staffing ranges from .33 to 1.75 full time equivalents (FTE) and includes chaplains, lay ministers, administrative staff members and interns/missionaries.

2. Campus Ministry is an important service providing and sustaining a connection to one’s Catholic faith at a time of life when personal and societal priorities are shaped and challenged in a far more global fashion.

3. In a 2002 CARA study, “Exploring the Impact of Campus Ministry on Catholics in the United States,” a number of key findings emerged linking participation in campus ministry activities to some aspects of a college-age Catholic’s personal faith commitment. Per the study results, participating in campus ministry increases:
   a. The frequency with which Catholics attend Mass, primarily among those attending a non-Catholic college,
   b. The importance participants say their faith has in their everyday lives,
   c. Their level of engagement in parish and faith activities beyond Mass attendance,
   d. The likelihood of their donating financially to a parish or other Church organization, particularly for those attending non-Catholic colleges/universities,
   e. The likelihood that Catholic men will consider becoming a priest or religious and the seriousness in following through on their desire.

4. Based on enrollment projections to 2020 and the estimated percentage and number of potential Catholic students, there are opportunities that arise to consider expanding both staffing and services for those campuses presently being served and staffed.
II. VICARIATE OBSERVATIONS

A. Eastern Vicariate

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 1

1. Catholics accounted for about 5% of the LPA’s total population.

2. 5 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families, while 2 of them increased between 2010 and 2014. LPA 1 gained 12% of parish families but lost 3% of parishioners during this same time period. Holy Trinity Parish grew by 13%, the most of any in the LPA. While most of the parishes experienced a decline, overall parishioner numbers have increased over the past four years.

3. The general population of Norfolk is projected to increase 6% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 15,520 persons.

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 7.3% to 13.5% of the total LPA population by 2030. The White and Black/African American populations are projected to decrease as a percentage of the total population at approximately 40% to 41% each.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 9% of the LPA parishioners. This population is significant at Holy Trinity Parish (29%).

6. The general population is aging with declining numbers in ages 0-4, 15-19 and 20-29. The same holds true for the LPA parishes which actually show more decline in the various age groups than the general population.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance decreased slightly at only 3 of the parishes. Four of the parishes (Holy Trinity, Our Lady of Lavang, Basilica of St. Mary, and Blessed Sacrament) have high Mass attendance/seating capacity percentages, some of which is alleviated by more weekend Masses given their seating limits. Our Lady of Lavang Parish is over capacity (151%).

8. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) experienced a decrease from 2010 to 2014. Overall in LPA 1, elementary enrollment dropped by 2.2% and high school enrollment dropped by 9.6%.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level decreased by 12% since 2010 and the high school enrollment fell 28%.

LOCAL PLANNING AREAS 2 & 3

1. Catholics accounted for about 11% of the LPAs’ total population in 2010.

2. 4 of the 11 parishes experienced a decrease in parish families, while 7 of them increased between 2010 and 2014. LPA 2 lost 2% of parish families and saw 10% of parishioners leave during the same time period. In terms of numbers, St. John the Apostle Parish grew by over 1,000 parishioners, followed by Church of the Holy Family (43%, 914 parishioners), and Church of the Holy Spirit (14%, 804 parishioners).

3. The general population of Virginia Beach is projected to decrease 2% from 2010 to 2030, a loss of 7,500 persons.
4. The Hispanic population is growing from 7.5% to 13.2% of the total LPA population by 2030. The White and Black/African American populations are projected to decrease as a percentage of the total population. In this area, the Asian population is estimated to grow from 7% to 9% of the total population.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 22% of LPA 2 parishioners. LPA 3 Hispanic community as a percentage of the total population was 7% in 2014. This population is most significant at St. Gregory the Great Parish and St. Luke Parish.

6. The general population is aging with declining numbers in almost every age group except for the 60+ age group. The same holds true for the LPA parishes which actually show more decline in the various age groups than the general population.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at only 3 of the parishes. Four of the parishes (Church of the Holy Spirit, Star of the Sea, St. John the Apostle, and St. Gregory the Great) have higher Mass attendance/seating capacity.

8. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) experienced a decrease from 2010 to 2014 of less than 1% and 4%, respectively. Catholic elementary school enrollment grew by 2% in the same time period.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level went down by 4% since 2010 and the high school enrollment grew by 8% for LPA 2. LPA 3 saw Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level fall by 9% and the high school enrollment by 18%.

**LOCAL PLANNING AREA 4**

1. Catholics accounted for about 4% of the LPAs’ total population 2010.

2. 4 of the 12 parishes experienced a decrease in parish families, while 7 of them increased between 2010 and 2014. LPA 4 gained 10% of parish families and saw 11% of parishioners increase during the same time period. Prince of Peace, Chesapeake lost 34% (2,166) of its parishioners, the most of all the LPA parishes. St. Stephen Martyr grew by 27% (1,104 parishioners). The St. Paul Parish numbers need to be reevaluated.

3. The general population of LPA 4 is projected to increase 22% from 2010 to 2030, adding 102,802 persons. The greatest increases are to be in Chesapeake (28%, 62,944 persons), Suffolk (36%, 30,030 persons), Isle of Wight (19%, 6,676 persons).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 3.7% to 9.3% of the total LPA population by 2030. The White and Black/African American populations are projected to decrease as a percentage of the total population. The areas of more significant Hispanic population growth are Chesapeake (4.4% to 11.1%), Portsmouth (3.6% to 9.5%) and Suffolk (3.5% to 8.6%).

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 5% of LPA 4 parishioners. This population is most significant at Church of the Holy Angels, Portsmouth; St. Jude, Franklin; Saint Mary of the Presentation, Suffolk.

6. The general population is aging with slow growth rates in almost every age group except for the 60+ age group. The same holds true for the LPA parishes which also show low/no increases in the various age groups like the general population.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at six of the parishes. Some of the parishes have growing Mass attendance/seating capacity.
percentages: St. Benedict Chapel (112%) is over capacity; St. Mary, Chesapeake; St. Mary of the Presentation, Suffolk. Some others are significantly under capacity – Church of the Good Shepherd, Smithfield; Church of the Resurrection, Portsmouth; St. Paul, Portsmouth.

8. LPA 4 is one of the very few areas where sacramental participation increased from 2010-2014, with the exception of Confrimands.

9. Public elementary school enrollment grew by 1.2% from 2010 to 2014. While high school enrollment decreased by 3.5%. Catholic elementary school enrollment at Portsmouth Catholic School grew by 11% in the same time period.

10. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level, not including St. Stephen Martyr, in calculations, decreased 25% from 2010 to 2014. The high school Religious Education enrollment decreased 41% (witholding St. Mary of Presentation enrollment for 2014) in the same time period.

11. Catholic school enrollment at Portsmouth Catholic School grew by 10% from 2010-11.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 5

1. Catholics account for about 5% of the LPAs’ total population in 2010.

2. 3 of the 11 parishes experienced a decrease in parish families between 2010 and 2014. LPA 5 lost 3% of parish families and saw 9% of parishioners leave in the same period. The more significant losses were at St. Jerome, Newport News (24%, 920 parishioners); St. Joseph, Hampton (37%, 1,001 parishioners).

3. The general population of LPA 5 is projected to increase 8% from 2010 to 2030, adding 30,430 persons. The greatest increases are to be in York County (32%, 20,857 persons). Population in Hampton is projected to be stable with little/no growth. Newport News increase is set at 5% (9,171 persons).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 6.7% to 12.7% of the total LPA population by 2030. The White and Black/African American populations are projected to decrease as a percentage of the total population. Asian population will increase to 5% of the population. Areas of more significant Hispanic population growth are Newport News (8.2% to 15.5%) and Hampton (5.1% to 11.9%).

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 13% of LPA 5 parishioners. This population is most significant at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Newport News; St. Jerome, Newport News; St. Joseph, Hampton.

6. The general population is aging with slow growth rates in almost every age group except for the 60+ age group. The same holds true for the LPA parishes which also show little/no increases in the various age groups like the general population. School age groups in particular are projected to decline more than the other groups.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at six of the parishes. Two of the parishes have growing Mass attendance/seating capacity percentages: Our Lady of Lavang-Vietnam (197%); St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Poquoson (69%). Some others are under capacity – St. Vincent de Paul, Newport News; St. Rose of Lima, Hampton; Immaculate Conception, Hampton.
8. Public elementary school enrollment experienced a stable enrollment trend from 2010 to 2014 with no growth, while public high school enrollment dropped 7.4%. York County elementary enrollment grew by 2% while Hampton and Newport News decreased by about 1% each.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level decreased by 31% since 2010 and the high school enrollment also lost 18% in LPA 5.

10. Catholic school enrollment at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel declined by 14% from 2010-11 to 2014-15. Peninsula Catholic had a 2% enrollment decrease in the same time period.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 6

1. Catholics accounted for about 11% of the LPAs’ total population in 2010.

2. 4 of the 6 parishes experienced a decrease in parish families between 2010 and 2014. LPA 6 lost 12% of parish families and saw a decline of 16% of parishioners during this time period. St. Bede, Williamsburg had the greatest decline, 24% (2,103 parishioners), followed by the Church of St. Therese, Gloucester (11%, 124 persons). St. Olaf, Norge had a 17% increase (291 parishioners).

3. The general population of LPA 6 is projected to increase 43% from 2010 to 2030, adding 49,024 persons. The greatest increases are to be in James City County (63%, 42,021 persons). James City County is one of the only LPA’s to experience a positive birth trend since 2008.

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 4.3% to 9% of the total LPA population by 2030. The White and Black/African American populations are projected to decrease as a percentage of the total population. The areas of more significant Hispanic population growth are projected to be James City County with 10.1% and Gloucester with 7.2% by 2030.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 4% of LPA 6 parishioners. This population is present in each parish but only at 1% to 6% of the total population.

6. The general population is aging with slow growth rates in almost every age group except for the 60+ age group for Gloucester and Middlesex counties. James City County is showing age group rates between 11% to 22% to 2020 and then 28% to 47% from 2020 to 2030. This means James City County will be the population hub of this LPA moving forward.

7. The pattern of projected age-group population decline in Gloucester and Middlesex counties holds true for the LPA parishes which also show low/no increases in the various age groups.

8. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at three of the parishes. Only one of the parishes has growing Mass attendance/seating capacity percentage: St. Olaf, Norge. Some others are under capacity given the number of weekend Masses celebrated.

9. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) in the LPA experienced an increase from 2010 to 2014 of 1.6%. James City County elementary schools enrollment increased 5.7%, Middlesex by 4.5%, while Gloucester County decreased by 6.6%. High school enrollment decreased in Gloucester and Middlesex counties while growing in James City County during the same time period.
10. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level decreased by 12% since 2010 and the high school enrollment decreased by 23%.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 7

1. Catholics accounted for about 2.5% of the LPA’s total population in 2010.

2. 2 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families between 2010 and 2014. Two of the parishes are small with under 250 parishioners. LPA 7 lost 1% of parish families but remained stable in numbers of parishioners during the same time period. While St. Andrew the Apostle, Chincoteague and St. Charles, Charles City show some decline, the number of parishioners in each has increased compared to the last 2 to 3 years. St. Peter, Onley has increased parish members each year.

3. The general population is projected to increase 1% in Accomack County from 2010 to 2030, adding only an additional 404 persons. Northampton County shows a declining population of 3% (393 persons) for the same time period.

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 68.8% to 15.4% of the total LPA population by 2030. Greatest growth is to be in Accomack County: 9% to 16.1% by 2030. Northampton County can expect a change from 8.2% of the population to 13.5%.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 32% of the LPA parishioners. This population is most prevalent at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Onley which has 47% Hispanic parish members.

6. The general population is aging with declining numbers in almost every age group except for the 60 years and older age group. The same holds true for the LPA parishes with some additional growth in the 31 to 59 year old group.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down only at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish. St. Peter the Apostle Parish has a high Mass attendance/seating capacity percentage (88%), which is being alleviated at this time by more weekend Masses.

8. Public elementary school enrollment experienced an increase from 2010 to 2014. Overall in the LPA, it grew by less than 1% with more significant increase in Accomack County (3.2%).

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level went down by 34% since 2010.
B. Central Vicariate

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 8

1. Catholics accounted for about 2% of the LPA 8’s total population in 2010.

2. 4 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families between 2010 and 2014, while 2 of them increased. LPA 8 lost 21% of parish families and 32% of parishioners during the same time period. St. Theresa and Saints Peter and Paul showed the most decline of parishioners, at 64% and 21% respectively.

3. The general population is projected to increase 13% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 15,114 persons. The most significant areas of growth are Fluvanna County (24%), Prince Edward County (10%), and Goochland County (19%). Fluvanna County is one of the few that is growing through natural increase more than in-migration.

4. The Hispanic population is currently 2.7% of the total LPA 8 population. Nottoway County and Fluvanna County are projected to have the greatest increase with Nottoway County having Hispanics as 10% of the total population by 2030 and 8.4% for Fluvanna County.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 6% of the LPA parishioners. This population is growing at the St. Joseph Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel, but is decreasing from 36% to 20% at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

6. The general population is aging with declining numbers in every age group. The same holds true for the LPA parishes.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at 3 of the parishes and the St. Joseph Shrine of Saint Katherine Drexel. St. Theresa is under capacity in terms of seating due to 3 weekend Masses.

8. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) reflects the decreases in the number of births and children of school age throughout the LPA. This decline is also seen in the Religious Education elementary enrollment which has dropped 23% since 2010 in LPA 8.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 9

1. Catholics accounted for about 3.8% of LPA’s total population.

2. 3 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families between 2010 and 2014, while 4 of them increased. LPA 9 gained 4% of parish families but decreased by 9% of parishioners from 2010 to 2014. Saint Ann and St. Joseph showed the most decline of parishioners, at 20% and 16% respectively. Church of the Sacred Heart experienced an increase of 15% and St. Richard Parish grew by 89 parishioners (98% increase).

3. The general population is projected to increase 8% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 13,031 persons. The most significant areas of growth are Colonial Heights (14%), Prince George County (10%), Dinwiddie County (9%), and Hopewell (10%).

4. The Hispanic population is projected to increase to 9.8% of the total LPA population by 2030. Dinwiddie County is projected to have an increase to 8% of the total population in that time period. Colonial Heights is projected to have Hispanics at 10.3%, Hopewell at 15%, and Emporia at 7.5% of the total population by 2030.
5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 19% of the LPA parishioners. Church of the Sacred Heart showed the greatest increase to 51% of total population.

6. The general population is aging with declining numbers in almost every age group except in Colonial Heights and Emporia which is showing some modest increases. The same holds true for most of the LPA parishes with the exception of Church of the Sacred Heart which is projecting growth in the 6 to 17 year age group, due largely to the growing Hispanic presence.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is up in 4 parishes, with some parishes controlling for attendance and seating capacity through the number of weekend Masses. Seating capacity ranges from 32.7% to 72.4%.

8. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) reflects the decreases in the number of births and children of school age throughout the LPA. This decline is also seen in the Religious Education elementary enrollment which has dropped 4% since 2010 in LPA 9.


LOCAL PLANNING AREA 10

1. LPA 10 includes 11 parishes and one school. Catholics accounted for about 5% of the LPA’s total population in 2010.

2. 3 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families between 2010 and 2014, while 8 of them increased. Four of the parishes are small with under 300 parishioners. LPA 10 lost 3% of parish families but gained 7% in parishioners in the same time period. Incarnation Parish parishioners grew by 25%, Holy Comforter by 12%, Blessed Sacrament by 7%, and St. John the Evangelist by 21% during this time period.

3. The general population is projected to increase 22% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 94,894 persons. The most significant areas of growth are Albemarle County (36%), Harrisonburg (34%), Augusta County (19%) and Rockingham County (18%).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 6.1% to 12.7% of the total LPA population by 2030. Greatest growth is to be in Harrisonburg (grow to 38.4%), Rockingham County (grow to 13.4%) Waynesboro (grow to 13.7%) and Charlottesville (go to 13.9%) of their total populations.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 28% of the LPA parishioners. This population grew at Blessed Sacrament Parish (58%), Incarnation Parish (47%), and St. John the Evangelist Parish (29%).

6. The general population is aging with declining numbers in almost every age group except for the 30 to 59 year olds and the 60+ age group. The same holds true for the LPA parishes with some additional growth in the 6 to 17 year old group. After 2020, more significant growth in almost all age groups is projected for Albemarle County, Rockingham County, and Harrisonburg.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at 5 of the parishes. Three of the parishes (Holy Comforter, St. George, and St. Francis of Assisi) have high Mass attendance/seating capacity percentages, some of which is alleviated by more
weekend Masses. St. Elizabeth (Richmond) has a very small weekend Mass attendance number.

8. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) experienced an increase from 2010 to 2014. Overall in the LPA, elementary school enrollment grew by 2.8% with more significant increases in the schools of Harrisonburg (16.9%), Charlottesville (11.4%) and Albemarle County (3.3%). Waynesboro and Rockingham County showed some decline.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level went down by 8% since 2010 and the high school enrollment fell 17%.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 11

1. LPA 11 includes 11 parishes and five schools. It is difficult to account for Catholics as a percentage of the LPA population since it consists of portions of the city of Richmond.

2. 8 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families between 2010 and 2014, while 3 of them increased. LPA 11 lost 10% of parish families and 15% of parishioners in the same time period. The two parishes experiencing the greatest change were St. Benedict Parish (24% decrease in parishioners and 11% decrease in families) and St. Bridget (19% decrease in parishioners and 16% decrease in parish families).

3. The general population is projected to increase 16% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 9,834 persons. The most significant areas of growth are New Kent County (25%) and King William County (15%).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 2.3% to 6.2% of the total LPA population by 2030. Greatest growth is to be in Richmond (grow to 12.1%), and Essex County (grow to 9.2%) of their total populations.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic parishioner population was very low in LPA 11. The two parishes with the higher rates of Hispanic parishioner growth are St. John (56% of parishioners) and St. Timothy (23% of parishioners). However, the parish data show the Hispanic parishioner percentage on the decline at St. Timothy.

6. The general population is aging with declining numbers in almost every age group except for the 60+ age group. However, New Kent County shows growing numbers in the various age groups after 2020. The same age group trend holds true for the LPA parishes with decline in all but the 60+ age group.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at 5 of the parishes. Four of the parishes (Church of the Redeemer, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Patrick, and St. Bridget) have high Mass attendance/seating capacity percentages, some of which is alleviated by more weekend Masses.

8. Public school elementary enrollment experienced an increase from 2010 to 2014. Overall in the LPA, it grew by 3.8% with more significant increases in the schools of King and Queen County (34%), and New Kent County (7%). High school enrollment was down 1.6% during the same time period.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level went down by 10% since 2010 and the high school enrollment fell 21%.
LOCAL PLANNING AREA 12

1. Catholics accounted for about 12% of the LPA’s total population in 2010.

2. 2 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families between 2010 and 2014, while 5 of them increased. LPA 12 gained 10% of parish families and gained 11% in parishioners in the same time period. St. Michael Parish (7%), St Mary Parish (30%) and St. Ann Parish (20%) had the greatest increase in the number of parishioners.

3. The general population is projected to increase to 32% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 51,224 persons. The most significant area of growth is Hanover County (39%, and 76% of total LPA growth).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 2.8% to 7.1% of the total LPA population by 2030. There is projected increases in each geographic area, but at 5% of total population or less. Caroline County’s Hispanic population is expected to grow from 4% to 9.3% for the same time period.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 7% of the LPA parishioners. This population grew primarily at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish (up to 22% of parishioners).

6. The general population is aging with modest growth in almost every age group except for the 0-5 group (a loss) and 60+ age group which is higher. After 2020, more significant growth in almost all age groups is projected for Caroline County and Hanover County.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at only 1 of the parishes. St. Ann Parish in Ashland and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish are either over capacity (St. Ann) or approaching capacity (Our Lady of Lourdes) of weekend Mass attendance and church seating.

8. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) experienced a decrease from 2010 to 2014. Overall in the LPA, elementary school enrollment shrunk by 1.6% with a more significant loss in Hanover County.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level went down by 4% mirroring the experience of the public schools and the child-age section of the population.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 13

1. Accounting for Catholics as a percentage of the LPA’s total population is difficult for LPA 13 as only a portion of the city of Richmond is included in the analysis.

2. 2 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families, while 7 of them increased between 2010 and 2014. LPA 13 gained 10% of parish families and gained 4% in parishioners during the same time period. St. Edward the Confessor had an increase in the number of families, but lost over 1,000 parishioners according to the data. Sacred Heart had the greatest increase in the number of parishioners (67%), and families (64%). Church of the Epiphany remains stable in terms of parishioners, St. Kim Taegon had a decline in both families and parishioners. Good Samaritan is building up parishioner numbers slowly.

3. The general population is projected to increase 30% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 265,571 persons. The most significant areas of growth are Chesterfield County (50%, and 59% of total LPA growth with added 157,605 persons), Henrico County (30%).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 6% to 13% of the total LPA population by 2030.
5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 32% of the LPA parishioners. This population grew primarily at Sacred Heart Parish and St. Augustine Parish.

6. The general population is aging with declines in most areas and age groups. Chesterfield County is projecting increases in all age groups. A similar experience is projected for Henrico County. After 2020, more significant growth in almost all age groups is projected for Powhatan County. Sacred Heart Parish and St. Augustine Parish are projected to have increases in the younger age groups, due in large part to the growing Hispanic population in these parish communities.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at five of the parishes. Three of the parishes (Sacred Heart, St. Augustine, and St. Edward the Confessor) have 5 Masses per weekend. For Sacred Heart and St. Augustine, this includes the Spanish Masses. Good Samaritan Parish has low Mass attendance in 2013.

8. Public school elementary enrollment experienced an increase from 2010 to 2014. Overall in the LPA, it increased by 2.5% with a more significant loss in Powhatan County.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level decreased by 35% from 2010 to 2014.
C. Western Vicariate

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 14

1. Catholics accounted for about 3% of the LPA’s total population in 2010.

2. 6 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families, while 7 of them increased between 2010 and 2014. LPA 14 gained 4% new parish families and parishioners in the same time period. Five of the parishes have fewer than 100 parishioners, while 4 of them have over 1,000 parishioners.

3. With the exception of St. Gerard Parish, the parishes did not enjoy much growth since 2010.

4. The general population is projected to increase to 9% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 38,765 persons. The most significant areas of growth are Franklin County (22%), Roanoke County (13%), Roanoke city (4%), Botetourt County (12%), Salem city (9%).

5. The Hispanic population is projected to increase to 8.1% of the total LPA population by 2030. This population is projected to grow significantly in Galax and Roanoke.

6. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 7% of the LPA parishioners. This population grew primarily at Risen Lord Parish, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, St. Gerard Parish and St. Joseph Parish in Woodlawn.

7. The general population is aging with declines in most areas and age groups. After 2020, more significant growth in almost all age groups is projected for Franklin County and Roanoke County. Sacred Heart Parish and St. Augustine Parish are projected to have increases in the younger age groups, due in large part to the growing Hispanic population in these parish communities.

8. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at about half of the parishes. Only St. Andrew Parish has a higher percentage of seating capacity used on a weekend.

9. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) experienced a decrease from 2010 to 2014. Elementary schools slowed by 1.2% while the high schools dropped down 2.6%.

10. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level went down by 15% mirroring the experience of the public schools and the child-age section of the population in the LPA.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 15

1. Catholics accounted for 2% of the total LPA population in 2010.

2. 2 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families and parishioners, while 2 of them increased from 2010 to 2014. LPA 15 had a drop of 8% of parish families and parishioners from during the same time period. St. Anne, Bristol and St. John, Marion both experienced a decline in the number of parishioners.

3. The general population is projected to increase 5% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 9,567 persons. The most significant areas of growth (percentages and numbers) are Washington County (7%), Bristol (10%), Wythe County (5%) and Pulaski County (5%).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 1.2% to 3.5% of the total LPA population by 2030. This population will increase primarily in Bristol (up to 4.3% of total population).
5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 9% of the LPA parishioners, primarily at St. Anne Parish, Bristol.

6. The general population is aging with declines in virtually all areas and age groups except for the 60 years and older age group. The same holds true for parishes in the LPA.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at three of the parishes. Three of the parishes are under capacity and have room to grow.

8. Public school enrollment (elementary) experienced a decrease of 2.4% from 2010 to 2014. High school enrollment also declined.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level declined by 35%, from 2010 to 2014, mirroring the experience of the public schools and the child-age section of the population in the LPA.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 16

1. Catholics accounted for less than 1% of the total LPA population in 2010. This is a very rural LPA with small parishes.

2. 12 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families, while 1 of them increased (St. Joseph, Clintwood) between 2010 and 2014. LPA 16 had a drop of 34% of parish families and 12% of parishioners from 2010 to 2014.

3. Only two of the parishes have more than 100 parishioners.

4. The general population is projected to decrease 2% from 2010 to 2030, a decline of 3,173 persons. The only areas of growth are Norton (13%), Russell County (1%), and Tazewell County (1%).

5. The Hispanic population is only present in larger percentages and projected to increase by 2030 in Lee County (4.2%) and Norton (5%).

6. In 2014, the Hispanic population decreased among the LPA parishioners, particularly at Sacred Heart, Big Stone Gap; Saint Anthony, Norton. The only growth for this population was at Good Shepherd, Lebanon; St. Patrick, Dungannon, and St. Joseph, Clintwood.

7. The general population is aging with virtually no change in all areas and age groups except for the 60+ age group. The same holds true for parishes in the LPA. Only Norton shows some increases after 2020.

8. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at seven of the parishes (not all parishes have 2013 attendance numbers). All of the parishes are under their percentage of seating capacity used.

9. Public school enrollment (elementary) experienced a decrease of 6.3% from 2010 to 2014. High school enrollment also declined.

10. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level increased by 50% (12 students) since 2010 for a total of 36 students in the LPA.
LOCAL PLANNING AREA 17

1. Catholics accounted for about 3% of the LPA’s total population in 2010.

2. 3 of the parishes experienced an increase in parish families, while 1 of them decreased between 2010 and 2014. LPA 17 lost 30% of parish families and 15% in parishioners during the same time period. The most significant decline was at St. Mary Parish, Blacksburg (-28%).

3. The general population is projected to increase to 19% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 24,867 persons. The most significant area of growth is Montgomery County (23%, 21,886 persons).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 2.7% to 7.7% of the total LPA population by 2030. There is projected increases in each county, but Montgomery County shows the largest increase (2.9% to 8.4% by 2030).

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 8% of the LPA parishioners. This population primarily attends Holy Spirit Parish, Christiansburg.

6. The general population is aging with modest growth in almost every age group in Montgomery County. After 2020, more significant growth in almost all age groups is projected for Montgomery County. In the parishes, there has been an increase in the child-age groupings, and a decline for the 18 to 59 years old groups.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at 2 of the parishes. All of the parishes are below their percentage of weekend Mass attendance and church seating.

8. Public school enrollment (elementary), in LPA 17, experienced an overall decrease of 1% from 2010 to 2014.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level grew by 12% (33 children) following the child-age section of the population.

LOCAL PLANNING AREA 18

1. Catholics accounted for about 3% of the LPA’s total population in 2010.

2. 2 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families, while 6 of them increased between 2010 and 2014. LPA 18 gained 5% of parish families and gained 6% in parishioners during the same time period. St. Victoria, Hurt; St. Mary, Lovingston; St. Thomas More, Lynchburg are all growing parishes. Holy Cross, Lynchburg experienced an 11% decrease in the number of parishioners.

3. The general population is projected to increase to 14% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 30,435 persons. The most significant areas of growth are Bedford County (26%), Lynchburg (11%).

4. The Hispanic population is growing from 2.5% to 6.6% of the total LPA population by 2030.

5. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 11% of the LPA parishioners. This population grew primarily at Holy Family, Lynchburg (from 9% to 13%).
6. The general population is aging with modest growth in the child-age group except for the 0-5 group (a loss) and 60+ age group which is higher. After 2020, more significant growth in almost all age groups is projected for Lynchburg and Bedford County.

7. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at five of the parishes. St. Victoria Parish, Hurt; Holy Name of Mary, Bedford; and Our Lady of Peace, Appomatox are past or approaching their seating capacity given the number of Masses they celebrate on a weekend.

8. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) experienced a decrease from 2010 to 2014. Overall in the LPA, it shrunk by 3%.

9. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level went down by 14% mirroring the experience of the public schools and the child-age section of the population.


LOCAL PLANNING AREA 19

11. Catholics accounted for about 1% of the LPA’s total population in 2010.

12. 2 of the parishes experienced a decrease in parish families, while 3 of them stayed the same or increased between 2010 and 2014. LPA 19 lost 12% of parish families and 18% of parishioners during the same time period. Sacred Heart Parish, Danville experienced a decrease of 29% of its parishioners since 2010. Three parishes had modest increases.

13. The general population is projected to increase to 2% from 2010 to 2030, adding an additional 7,801 persons. The most significant areas of growth are Campbell County, Henry County (after 2020), Martinsville (after 2020).

14. The Hispanic population is growing from 3% to 7.4% of the total LPA population by 2030. This population is projected to grow in Danville, Henry County, Lunenburg County, and Martinsville.

15. In 2014, the Hispanic population accounted for 40% of the LPA parishioners. This population grew primarily at Good Shepherd Parish, South Hill (23%), St. Catherine of Siena, Clarksville (24%), St. Joseph, Martinsville (51%). Sacred Heart, Danville, while having a significant Hispanic parishioner presence, shows a decrease from 60% to 44%, but still serving a sizable Hispanic population in the area.

16. The general population is aging with declines in almost all areas and age groups with the exception of the 60+ year old group.

17. In terms of weekend Mass attendance and church seating capacity, attendance is down at two of the five parishes. Four of the parishes celebrate Mass in Spanish at least once on the weekend. All of the parishes in LPA 19 are under capacity in terms of seating and Mass attendance.

18. Public school enrollment (elementary and high school) experienced a decrease from 2010 to 2014. Overall in the LPA, it declined by 3%.

19. Religious Education enrollment at the elementary level went up by 22% from 2010 to 2014, countering the experience of the public schools and the child-age section of the population in the LPA.

20. The Catholic School, Sacred Heart, Danville had an enrollment decline of 29% since 2009-10.
III. CLERGY TREND AND PROJECTIONS

1. The availability of priests for active service in the future is a key challenge facing not only the Diocese of Richmond, but a majority of dioceses throughout the country.

2. In 2014, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) conducted a research project with the Diocese of Richmond focused on a projection of diocesan priests available for active service through 2045. The report’s findings are based on the number of priests entering or leaving the Diocese (ordination, incardination, departure), the retirement age (currently age 70), and whether some priests continue to serve after retirement. A series of 18 potential projections based on variations of these factors were prepared.

3. Per CARA, 88% of priests in the Diocese are age 50 or older and could have another twenty years of service. 68% are age 60 or older with only 10 years of service remaining. A total of 32% of priests are above the retirement age at this time.

4. Priests who are 29 to 39 years are only 6% of all priests in the Diocese, and those 40 to 54 years make up another 17%. The priests age 55 to 69 make up 45% of all priests.

5. The current number of ordinations in the Diocese is two per year. This fact, combined with the small percentage of younger priests, means an inability to replace those retiring in the next five to fifteen years.

6. The most likely projection proposed by CARA on the future numbers of priests is a rapid decline to 2035, from 94 diocesan priests in active service to 50 in active service. At this point, given an ordination rate of two per year, retirement age of 70, and some retired priests continuing in ministry, the numbers should plateau and remain relatively constant indefinitely.

7. Increasing the number of ordinations and/or changing the retirement age (lower to 65 or increase to 75) would have an impact on the number of priests for active service in the future, ranging from 25 in the year 2045 (zero ordinations, retirement 70 years) to 75 priests in 2045 with four ordinations per year.

8. To complement the diocesan priests (105) in active service and provide the ministerial leadership needed in the 146 parishes and other related ministries, the Diocese engages both religious order (18) and international priests (42) at the present time.

9. As the number of active service diocesan priests continues to decline, it will become necessary to consider increasing the number of international and/or religious order priests, develop and implement new models of parish community, or determine the number of parishes and their strategic location that would serve larger geographic areas and congregations.
IV. DATA CONCLUSIONS

There are a number of themes and conclusions that emerge from the data study and analysis that are summarized in this study report. Some of the key themes include:

- The projected trend of priests who will be available for active service over the next 30 years.
- In light of the clergy trend and the declining numbers of Catholics in some areas of the Diocese, the sustainability of parish communities as they exist today.
- The potential need to expand some Church facilities given the current size and seating capacity of some churches and the changing demographics impacting them.
- Related to facility capacity and the projected number of pastors and priests in the future; the number of Masses being celebrated at a number of parishes each weekend (and hence, the manpower needed to sustain those numbers) in order to maximize seating capacity and the need to expand physically.
- The potential to consider a different model(s) of parish organization and structure in terms of leadership and administration.
- Catholic education as a priority (schools, religious education, campus ministry, on-going faith formation) needs to be evaluated especially given the decreases in participation among our youth. Declining enrollments, even where the numbers of youth are strong, are a challenge to be addressed.
- An aging population has unique challenges as our general society and culture is discovering with our Baby Boomers.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The CARA report regarding the future availability of clergy in the Diocese is one of the first ripples of change that will roll out to impact (and is influencing) many of the other aspects of life in the Church in the Diocese of Richmond. As the number of diocesan priests contracts in coming years, the number of international or religious order priests would need to increase just to meet demand. However, even the number of religious order priests is becoming strained as these Orders age and do not have younger replacements.

2. While the Diocese has a good program with inviting, educating and engaging international priests in its parishes and ministries, a question is always how many can the Diocese support.

3. The sustainability of 146 parishes for the long term is a significant question in terms of clergy availability, resource allocation and financial viability. There are areas where the Catholic population is declining, Mass attendance and parish numbers are dropping, and community demographics are not as strong as in the past or the population is declining. Some of these areas are: LPA 2 (Church of the Holy Apostles), LPA 8, LPA 14, and LPA 16. Given the projected clergy numbers, Mass attendance and parish rolls, some parish reorganization may be needed.

4. Related to #3, above, is the potential of expanding or initiating new parish models, leadership and administration. While twinning, pastors with multiple parish communities, etc., help address the issue, other options may be possible and workable in the Diocese.
5. A growing number of parishes are becoming close to or over capacity. Increasing the number of weekend Masses appears to be one solution according to the data. There may be a need for parishes to consider (if they have not already) some seating capacity expansion. In some of these cases, it appears that there may be more Masses scheduled than possibly needed given Mass attendance and seating capacity (maximizing use of the church facility and the time/availability of the pastor/priests). Some of the more obvious locations that emerge from the data that warrant a look are:
   a. LPA 1 – Our Lady of Lavang
   b. LPA 2 – St. Gregory the Great, Church of the Holy Spirit.
   c. LPA 4 – Chesapeake and Suffolk, but in the long term as/when the projected population and increased demand warrant; St. Mary of the Presentation
   d. LPA 5 – Our Lady of Lavang-Vietnam
   e. LPA 6 – St. Olaf
   f. LPA 10 – St. Ann, St. Francis of Assisi, Charlottesville as the population grows, Harrisonburg as the population increases
   g. LPA 13 – Sacred Heart, St. Augustine, Chesterfield area and Suffolk area as the population increases after 2020

6. The growing Hispanic population will continue to have an impact on the Church throughout the Diocese. Providing social and educational services, liturgy and ministries in their own language for new immigrants will continue to be a need and priority. Staffing the Hispanic ministry office and local parish/ministry sites will need to expand.

7. In the original strategic plan for Catholic schools prepared several years ago, the need for Catholic school expansion in the Tidewater area, particularly the Chesapeake/Suffolk area was put forward. The data continues to support the potential for studying the feasibility of a new elementary school in this area of the Diocese.