

DIOCESAN PARISH COUNCIL MTG

November 23, 2024
St. John the Evangelist
Morden, MB

FEEDBACK FROM SMALL GROUPS EXERCISE

- Differences in parish sizes make comparisons challenging, however qualities like attentiveness, and good communication make a parish strong.
- The exercise showed how in some parishes the pillars could use some fine-tuning and a better definition of the PPC's role.
- Parish initiatives taken during Covid and since have continued to bear fruit including: caring calls, re-activation of welcoming committee, distribution of brochures and letter mail, the assignation of various parishioners as gift-bearers by welcomers.
- The exercise was a good way of identifying categories, of recognizing possibilities within the parish – particularly the number and diversity of ministries, of starting dialogue and determining needs.
- Appreciation for terminology used: pillar versus commission, ministry versus committee.
- This exercise brought into focus the opportunities for taking action in various areas in the parish.
- Smaller parishes sometimes face the challenge of “formalizing” their ministries: parishioners are willing volunteers but unwilling to bear the official-sounding title of “chair”.
- Working on organization chart was a years-long effort, but the effort has proven that the more that can be documented (even using Excel for example), the easier it is for people to join, the easier it is for parishioners to know who to address and the better delegation happens.
- The exercise was a source of cross-parish encouragement.
 - Overview of Statistics Canada numbers of Catholic-faith populations in parish catchment areas a source of motivation and consideration for apostolic efforts.
<https://legacy.winnipeg.ca/census/2021/default.asp>