

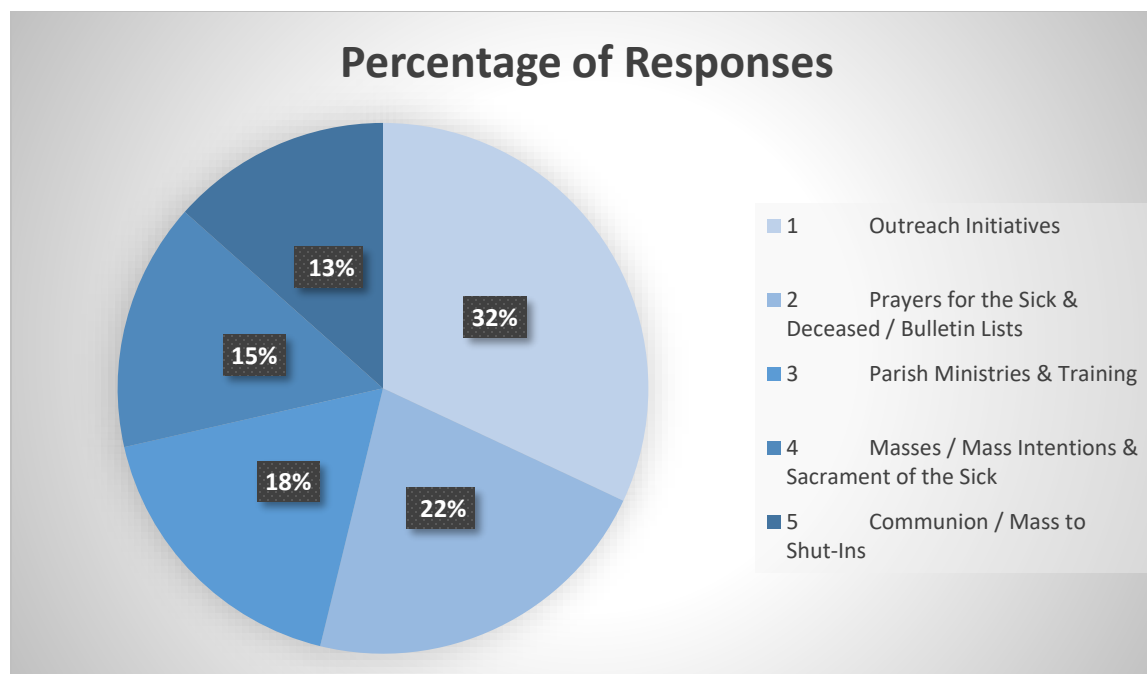
## 1. What services/ministries do you currently have in place in your parish that respond to the gospel call for compassion and healing service?

There were 119 responses to this question from 23 parishes. These were divided into 5 categories that grouped the most common answers.

- 1 Outreach Initiatives
- 2 Prayers for the Sick & Deceased / Bulletin Lists
- 3 Parish Ministries & Training
- 4 Masses / Mass Intentions & Sacrament of the Sick
- 5 Communion / Mass to Shut-Ins

Of those responses,

1. **38 (31.9%)** have outreach initiatives already in place. Examples of these initiatives are: sending sympathy cards, organizing bereavement groups, visiting grieving families, preparing Christmas hampers, offering transportation, preparing food packages, offering yard care and household maintenance, guiding people to social and medical services and making hospital visits.
2. **26 (21.8%)** organize healing/prayer groups specifically for the sick in their parish, make prayer lists and include the names of the sick and the dying in parish bulletins.
3. **21 (17.6%)** have parish ministries and offer training to those who want to serve in pastoral and/or social justice roles, welcoming committees and bereavement ministries. There are many parishes who have active K of C and C.W.L. groups who take responsibility for visiting and caring for the sick and grieving.
4. **18 (15.1%)** have healing Masses and/or offer the Sacrament of the sick on a yearly or semi-annually basis. Many have indicated that the sick are remembered and prayed for during the regular Sunday Mass. Several parishes observe February 11, World Day of the Sick, with special Masses or prayer services. There are a few parishes that have a yearly Mass to remember the deceased members of the parish community.
5. **16 (13.4%)** provide communion to parishioners who are unable to attend Sunday Mass by organizing communion services in seniors' residences and personal care homes.



## 2. What areas of need are you able to identify in your parish?

There were 66 responses to this question from 23 parishes. These were divided into 5 categories that grouped the most common answers.

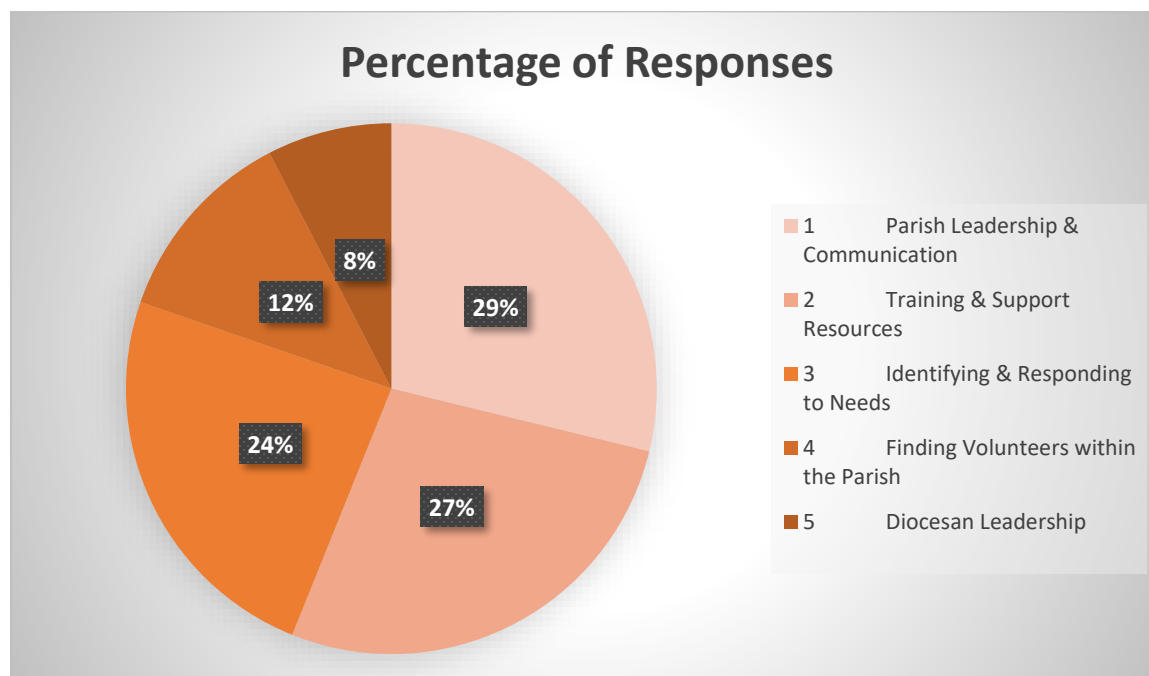
- 1 Parish Leadership & Communication
- 2 Training & Support Resources
- 3 Identifying & Responding to Needs
- 4 Finding Volunteers within the Parish
- 5 Diocesan Leadership

Of those responses,

1. **19 (28.8%)** mentioned that the Pastor needs to be more involved and act as an advocate for the Ministry of Care. Many responded that the parish lacks leadership and that communication within the parish, vis-à-vis the Pastor and the PPC and other ministries in the parish is unsatisfactory. Coordination of services also needs to be improved. Some suggested that an annual assembly on this subject would be useful.
2. **18 (27.3%)** of the responses stated that there is a specific need for training for Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. There is also a necessity for training/formation of volunteers in all parish ministries. A necessity of

guidelines for ministries has also been expressed. The logistics to put a Ministry of Care in motion has been voiced. Educational resources and structures were also noted.

3. **16 (24.2%)** stated that they require guidance in identifying the needs of the community and help with making an effective response. Many expressed a need to develop ministries directed to the sick and shut-ins, immigrants, those dealing with mental health issues, parishioners in need of communion, those who have stepped away from the Church, individuals and families dealing with grief and/or loss, etc.
4. **8 (12.1%)** articulated their difficulty in finding volunteers for ministries and the necessity for someone who would spearhead a Ministry of Care.
5. **5 (7.6%)** saw the need for archdiocesan coordination and more communication of information between the parishes and the Archdiocese concerning processes of referrals.



### 3. How can the Ministry of Care provide assistance to your parish or the Archdiocese?

There were 40 responses to this question from 19 parishes. One possible reason why there were fewer responses to this question may be because some parishes considered that this question was answered by Question 2. These were divided into 2 categories that grouped the most common answers.

- 1 Training, Support & Diocesan Resources
- 2 How to use Parish Resources Effectively

Of those responses,

1. **22 (55.0%)** would like to see the Archdiocese provide useful links on the website. Many indicated that the Archdiocese should identify resources available in the deaneries, provide Ministry of Care contact lists, make available guidelines, educational material and spiritual resources. There were also requests for formation sessions for PPCs.
2. **18 (45.0%)** would like to know how to use their key parish personnel and volunteers as resources. Some respondents would like to revisit protocols and create better structures to provide effective assistance to those in need. A need for better communications between parishes and between the parishes and the Archdiocese was also expressed.

