

Hello Little Flower Community,

We would like to update you on the activities that have been going on with regard to All Things New and our parish. In particular, webinars were held in May for parish priests and key leaders. The webinars were conducted by the Archdiocese and the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) to discuss next steps and actions once survey results were received. Since then the Archdiocese recently released the overall results of the survey here: <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/Survey-Results>

If you have any questions with regard to the information shared below or anything else, our parish leaders please reach out to any of our leaders listed here:

- Pat Dolan
- John Gibbons
- Ramona Jacknewitz
- Jane & Denny McCabe
- Chris Saykes
- *Advisors: Albert Anglin, Alyssa Duarte-Reinagel (primary POC), Kevin Sargent*

The goals of the webinars were to:

1. Equip parish priests and leaders to analyze the parish's Disciple Maker Index (DMI) data.
2. Review and understand information in the Parish Workbook (information about the parish and planning area).
3. Introduce the All Things New Parish Feedback Form and how and when to complete it. The Parish Feedback Form was to be completed by June 24, 2022.
4. Provide ideas for sharing DMI results with the parish (by July 31, 2022).
5. Suggest ways to gather necessary feedback on two key questions from parishioners (by August 31, 2022).

We will share more on the second goal in this update today. More to come on the other items as noted above.

Goal 1) Understanding the DMI (*More Information, per Goal #3, to come in the near future*)

A REMINDER: WHAT IS THE DMI?

- 75-question survey instrument
- Developed with bishops, pastors, pastoral ministers, and thought leaders
- Opportunity for parishioners to reflect on two things:
 1. Individual spiritual growth
 2. Engagement with the parish

Goal 2) Understanding your parish workbook (*detailed below*)

There are 3 sections:

- Archdiocesan data
- Planning area data
- Parish level data

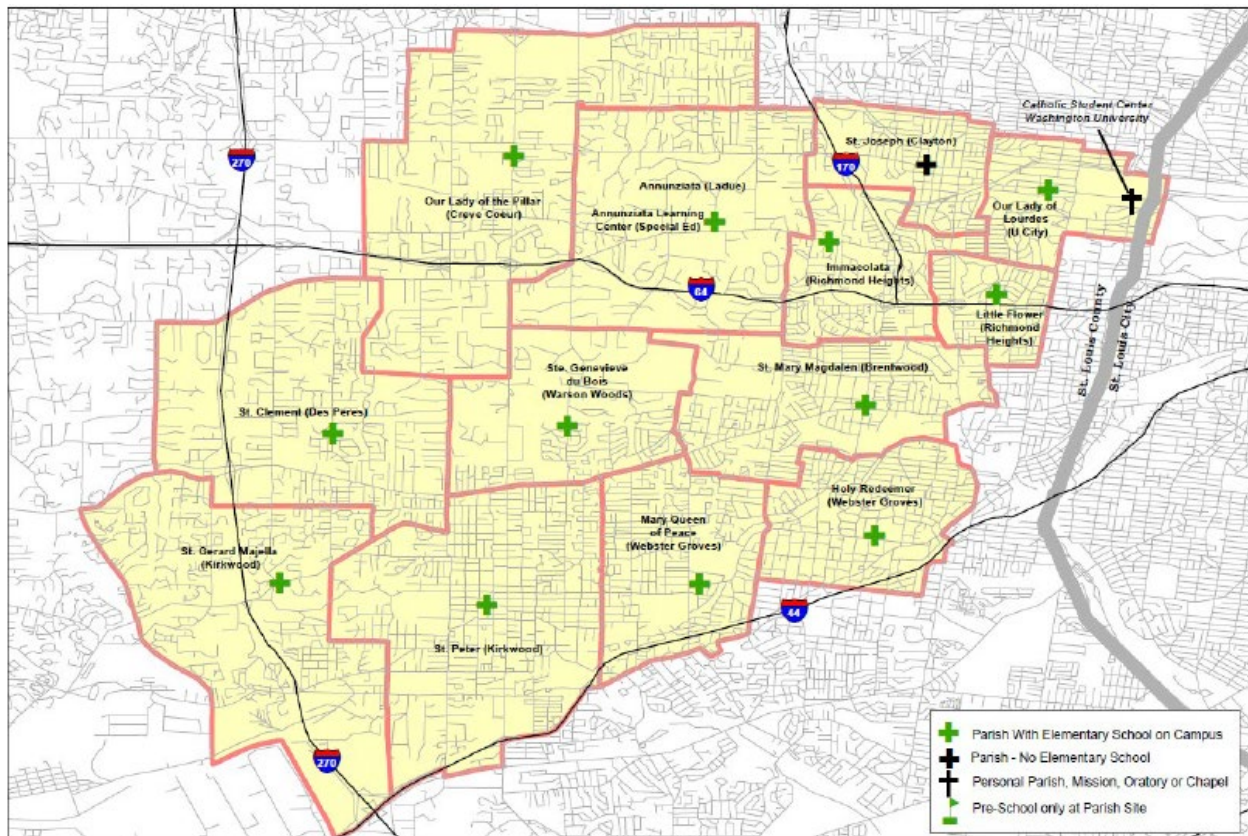
The Archdiocese of St. Louis and All Things New

The Archdiocese of St. Louis is made up of 178 parishes encompassing the City of St. Louis and 10 surrounding counties – a large and diverse territory: urban, suburban, and rural.

Thirty-five percent of our diocesan priests (74 priests) serving in parishes are 65 years of age or older. By 2026, we will have fewer diocesan priests to serve in parishes than the number of parishes.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mass attendance was declining between 0.5% to 1% per year. The long-term implications of COVID are unknown, but the rebound in Mass attendance from 2020 to 2021 still leaves us 25% below pre-COVID levels. In 2019, only 33% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass. By 2021, only 25% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass.

As many as 5,000 Catholics are “leaving” the Church – OR – not re-engaging in the Church after high school or college. In the last decade, the percentage of the adult population claiming no religious affiliation (the “Nones”) grew from 17% to 26%. In the last decade, the percentage of the millennial population claiming no religious affiliation grew from 27% to 40%.



Our Planning Area for All Things New

Our Planning Area is in St. Louis County. The geography of this area is defined by three Interstates (64, 44 and 270). Located in the Mid-County deanery, there are 13

territorial parishes and the Washington University Student Center. Twelve elementary schools are in this planning area. Currently, there are 20 diocesan and 2 order priests assigned to this group. Clusters of church buildings exist in the eastern part of the planning area with parishes within a few miles of each other. Larger parishes in the southwest are also within 2-3 miles.

Total population in the planning area in the 2020 census was 129,010 which was up 6% from 2010. The area is very stable racially, age-wise and socio-economically.

Despite the heavily Catholic population (over 10% more registered Catholic than the Diocesan average) and the stable general population, Mass attendance has declined 40% from 2014 and is now at 8,068 on an average weekend. Given the number of masses, attendance fills the churches in this planning area at 26% of capacity. This planning area has one of the youngest demographics in the diocese as the number of baptisms in the area averaged 555 per year vs 280 funerals. The enrollment of children in the eleven elementary schools in this planning is up 1% from 5 years ago. Four schools have under 200 students. The number of students enrolled in PSR in 2021 is down 27% from five years earlier.

More about Little Flower and results from the Disciple Maker Index survey to come!