

AOD Restructuring Parish Feedback Form

Section 1: Planning Area and Parish Workbook Data

1. Takeaways from AOD Workbook data (pages 10 to 19).

- a. The information was comprehensive and informative and made parishioners aware of declining participation.
- b. COVID had a significant impact.
- c. Over the last 15 years there have been several initiatives to reverse the decline and promote evangelization (Changing Lives Together in 2012, Unleash the Gospel in 2017, Family of Parishes in 2021) but participation continues to decline. What will be different about this initiative?

2. Takeaways from PA Workbook data (pages 20 to 37).

- a. The large number of parishes in the PA along with its geographic size.
- b. Sacred Heart – Auburn Hills (SHAH) is the second most diverse parish in PA 10.
- c. Data doesn't consider sacramental prep for baptism, marriage, and OCIA that takes place in a parish when the actual sacrament is celebrated elsewhere. Only the parish where the sacrament takes place gets the "credit".
- d. We would have liked to have seen sacramental data compared to the whole of the AOD.

3. Potential new regions/vicariates

- a. As a group, we found this question somewhat confusing.
- b. The PA 10 and surrounding areas are economically and culturally diverse and could be cut in a lot of different ways.

4. Affinity with other parishes.

- a. We share SVdP with St. Irenaeus.
- b. We share daily mass schedule and OCIA with St. Thomas More.
- c. SHAH's Knights of Columbus chapter draws parishioners from St. Irenaeus, St. Mary of the Hills, and St. Thomas More.
- d. St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More are easy to reach travel-wise.
- e. Retired priests regularly celebrate Mass at SHAH.

5. Financial and demographic trends found in workbook.

- a. Data is very consistent with our experience.

Section 2: Your Lived Experience

6. Unique attributes of parish.

- a. A Eucharistic Chapel that is open 24 hours. No other bordering parish has 24-hour access to the Blessed Sacrament.
- b. Very active K of C that holds an annual fish fry that is well-attended.
- c. Close to several assisted living communities. Residents attend Mass at SHAH and we provide communion to residents on a regular basis (weekly or bi-weekly).
- d. Significant handicap access to church. There are no steps or raised elevations for entrance into the church. Covered canopy in front of the church allows drop-off if necessary.

7. Institutional/outreach ministries

- a. SVdP shared with St. Irenaeus.
- b. SHAH maintains a separate food pantry.
- c. Communion outreach to three assisted living communities (American House – Adams, American House – Auburn, and Pomeroy Rehab & Skilled Nursing).
- d. Beginning to recruit volunteers for St. Joseph's Helpers.
- e. Location for a Men's Bible Study that is shared with surrounding parishes.
- f. Social Hall or church is used for monthly meetings for AA, Asian Women's Prayer Group, Hispanic Ministry, Marriage Ministry, Encounter Ministry, Scouts of America from St. Hugo.

8. Want to start but limited resources.

- a. A family ministry with outreach to the young families with newly baptized and young children.

9. Most important ministries

- a. 24-hour chapel
- b. Food pantry
- c. K of C
- d. AA groups
- e. Nursing home outreach
- f. Monthly Adoration with Benediction
- g. Encounter Ministries

10. Facilities in best shape or need attention

- a. **Best shape:** Church, Parish Hall, Rectory
- b. **Need attention:** Garage adjacent to rectory, storage garage in parking area.

11. Ministry collaboration with other parishes

- a. SHAH's annual Christmas Giving Tree and Easter basket collection goes to families at St. Damian.
- b. OCIA and Men's Bible Study with St. Thomas More.
- c. Shared weekday Mass schedule with St. Thomas More.
- d. Scouts from St. Hugo meet regularly in social hall.
- e. Vacation Bible Study shared with St. Damian and St. Thomas More.

12. Collaboration with other faith traditions.

- a. None

13. Greatest challenge in next 10 years.

- a. Our greatest challenge is the same as AOD as a whole: evangelization. The best way is to encourage everyone to share the love of Christ with others and invite them into a closer relationship with him.

14. Successful initiatives over past 10 years.

- a. Fr. Cavelier got the parish out of debt.
- b. Fr. Grimaldi has provided consistent pastoral care as an administrator and then as a senior priest.
- c. Additional senior priests (Fr. Brian Chabala, Fr. Juan Gonzalez, Fr. George Hazler, and Msgr. Anthony Tocco) have provided sacramental support and Dcn. Michael Stach has provided both pastoral and administrative support for the past 3 years. The parish continues to attract new parishioners and grow in ministry outreach.

Section 3: Parish Evangelization Ministry

15. Staff Member or Volunteer Director of Evangelization? Yes – Brenda Savage

16. In the last 5 years, has your parish had an active Evangelization Committee (or something comparable) at your parish? Yes

On a scale of 1 to 5, how active is your committee currently? (1 being inactive, 5 being very active) 3

17. What types of initiatives does your parish offer? (check all that apply)

- ☒ Encounter oriented Events or Programs (Parish Missions, Revivals, Alpha, ChristLife, Rescue Project, REVIVE, etc.)
- ☒ Retreat Ministry (ACTS, Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP), Cursillo, etc.)
- ☒ Evangelization and/or testimony training or workshops. [Called & Gifted]
- ☐ Door to Door Evangelization
- ☐ Street Evangelization

- ☒ Social Media outreach targeted towards non-community members
- ☒ Small group faith sharing
- ☒ Discipleship formation opportunities
- ☐ Other, specify Vacation Bible Study

18. Rate the overall interest of your parishioners in partaking in evangelization efforts: (0 = not at all interested; 5 = very interested) 3

Section 4: Parish Path of Discipleship

Attract

19. Describe any “low threshold” engagement opportunities or events intended to attract new people to the parish, such as parish festivals, fish fries, social/fellowship events advertised to the surrounding community.

Fish Fry, Parish Picnic, Senior Lunch, Gardening Angels, Movie Mornings, Thanksgiving and Easter food baskets

20. Describe any special considerations for the experience of families with children? If yes, provide examples below.

VBS, Easter Egg Hunt, Movie Nights, and Parish Picnic offer family-oriented opportunities to gather and celebrate simple religious traditions/prayers followed by fun-filled activities.

21. Who are the audiences in your parish boundaries that should be a key focus of evangelization efforts?

Young adults, members of retirement/assisted living communities, families with children.

22. What kind of support do you most need from the Archdiocese to enhance your evangelization efforts?

Keep us open.

Encounter

23. Describe any opportunities offered by your parish that provide space for personal encounter with Christ, such as retreats, powerful worship experiences, Adoration, Holy Hours, etc.

24 hour adoration, monthly adoration/benediction in evening, First Friday adoration, weeknight vespers, quarterly Fr. Jason Encounter events, 5th Sunday Rosary for Life by K of C., rosary before daily Mass.

24. Describe any organized evangelization programs you facilitate at your parish (i.e., Alpha, ChristLife, Rescue Project, REVIVE, small groups, etc.).

Rescue Project, K of C Corr Men's Scripture Study, Right to Life Crosses displayed

25. Describe any additional locations within your boundaries/parish territory where you provide attract/encounter ministry opportunities, such as community centers, colleges/community colleges, nursing homes, etc.

Communion services at senior centers in territory.

Grow

26. For each section below, indicate which ministries/opportunities your parish provides. (check all that apply)

- ☒ Ministries and opportunities for growth and discipleship formation for Adults.
- ☒ Ministries and opportunities for growth and discipleship formation for Children (Pre-K through 8th grade)
- ☒ Middle School Youth Ministry
- ☒ High School Youth Ministry
- ☒ (in formation) Young Adult Ministry
- ☒ Special Needs Ministry
- ☒ Senior citizens/elderly
- ☒ Vulnerable adults
- ☒ (in formation) Ministry to Young Families (birth through pre-school)

Vocations

- ☒ Promotion, awareness, exposure to vocations, including priesthood, religious/consecrated life, and marriage
- ☐ Ministry committed to encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Sacramental Preparation

- ☒ Infant Baptism
- ☒ First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation
- ☒ Confirmation
- ☒ Marriage
- ☒ OCIA
- ☒ Prolife advocacy ministry

Marriage Ministry

- ☐ Marriage Enrichment (Together in Holiness, Couples Prayer, Teams of Our Lady, Worldwide Marriage Encounter, etc.)
- ☐ Natural Family Planning instruction
- ☐ Other () – Hispanic Marriage Encounter

Marriage Support Ministry

- ☐ Marriage Coaching
- ☐ Retrouvaille
- ☐ Divorce ministry

27. In consideration of families with children, mark, if any, ways your parish accommodates or considers their needs for formation opportunities: (check all that apply)

- ☒ Times opportunities are offered
- ☒ Variety of dates for families to choose to attend formation
- ☐ Childcare availability for parent participation
- ☒ Support for families in need/difficult circumstances

28. What kind of support do you need most from the Archdiocese to enhance your formation efforts?

Witness

29. Select any of the following examples of opportunities in the Witness stage offered by your parish (check all that apply):

- ☒ Encouragement or training of parishioners to share their testimonies, evangelize, or share their faith with others
- ☒ Opportunities to hear testimonies of others, such as presentations from guest speakers, retreats, etc.
- ☐ Opportunities to help parishioners better understand the people that they are trying to evangelize and how they might more effectively reach them.
- ☐ Door to door evangelization ministry
- ☐ Evangelization training opportunities
- ☒ Small group or faith-sharing opportunities (Called & Gifted)
- ☒ Evangelical Charity/Christian Service projects that explicitly integrate the gospel message into service projects and charity work.

Communications

30. Does your parish use parish bulletins, the parish website, or social media to engage and attract new members/followers? If yes, use the space below to share examples.

Yes. We have a website, Facebook and social media which allow registration for parish activities. Sites are maintained and updated daily by a dedicated webmaster. Opportunities include live-streaming of the Mass, Adoration/Benediction, Stations of the Cross, First Friday Devotions, and Holy Week and Lenten observances.

- 31. Does your parish practice targeted use of print or online/social media campaigns to engage non-community members? If yes, use the space below to share examples.**

No

Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Ministry

- 32. For the purpose of evangelization, does your parish collaborate with other Christian denominations or non-Christian faith communities? If yes, describe below.**

Asian Ave Maria women's prayer group

- 33. For the purpose of evangelization, does your parish collaborate with any non-faith based organization (e.g., community programs, service projects, etc.)? If yes, describe below.**

AA, American House, Pomeroy Rehab and Skilled Nursing, Red Cross Blood Drives, Canasta Group, Scout Troop, Book Club

Evangelization Efforts Assessment

- 34. When it comes to the effectiveness of your evangelization efforts, how does your parish tell when people are moving along the path of discipleship? Share any systems in place to observe the progress of people as they move?**

Mostly informal via discussions with clergy and staff, mass counts, and registrations. Over the past 3 years there has been a 20% increase each year in registrations as well as increase in the number of individuals at confessions and daily masses (45 to 100).

- 35. If there is anything else you'd like to share related to evangelization at your parish, share it below.**

We believe that we have a high percentage of engaged parishioners who volunteer their time and resources in various ways including Worship, Evangelical Charity and Mission Support. Their dedicated efforts have helped maintain and improve the parish both physically and spiritually.

Section 5: Outreach

36. Using the list below, indicate if your parish provides any of these ministries by selecting the type of support you provide. Do your best to include outside organizations that are independent of the parish to which you provide referrals or with whom you collaborate, or ministries your parish provides directly through St. Vincent de Paul or another parish-based ministry.

	Not Provided	We Provide Referrals	We collaborate with another ministry	We provide this ministry at the parish
Food pantries, food/clothing assistance, and/or ministry to the homeless				☒
Utility assistance			☒	
Loan programs or financial assistance	☒			
Rental assistance			☒	
Family counseling	☒			
Home repairs			☒	
Parish Nurse/Health Ministry	☒			
Afterschool childcare program	☒			
Childcare offered during programs at the parish	☒			
Afterschool programs	☒			
Recreation programs (non-CYO sports, exercise programs, hobby-based groups)	☒			
CYO Sports	☒			
Summer camp (not VBS)	☒			
Scouting programs			☒	
Parent Support Group	☒			
Seniors Support Group				☒
Meals on Wheels	☒			
Social Justice Programs	☒			
Support ministries, such as mental health ministry, support for addiction, grief ministry				☒
Ministry to the Incarcerated			☒	
Ministry to members of the LGBTQ community	☒			
Ministry to the homeless populations			☒	
Service opportunities for parishioners to engage in evangelical charity/Christian Service ministries				☒

37. List any other ministries.

**38. What evangelization activities are regularly part of the services you provide?
(check all that apply)**

- ☒ Opening Prayer
- ☒ Closing Prayer
- ☒ Praying a Devotional Prayer (i.e., the Rosary)
- ☐ Reading and/or reflecting on Scripture
- ☒ Religious formation
- ☒ Building one-on-one relationships with people
- ☐ Faith Sharing as a group
- ☒ Inviting people to Mass
- ☐ Including a card with Mass times
- ☐ Other, specify

39. Do you provide any services your parish for people who are immigrants, refugees or non-English speakers? If yes, use the space below to share more details. No

40. Does your parish collaborate with Catholic Charities, interfaith organizations, and other charitable Catholic organizations? If yes, use the space below to share more details.

Yes. Have provided space to CCSE for past 20 years. K of C helps CC, Right to Life, Oxford Pregnancy Ctr, Mary's Mantle, Books for Children, Hospice of Michigan

41. Does your parish have any of the following ministries? (check all that apply)

- ☒ Knights of Columbus
- ☐ Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus
- ☐ Knights of Peter Claver
- ☐ Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver
- ☐ Knights of Malta
- ☒ St. Vincent de Paul
- ☒ Other, specify
- ☐ Christian Service Fund managed by parish.

**42. How do you determine what the needs are in the community you are serving?
(check all that apply)**

- ☒ The community invites us
- ☒ From Parishioners
- ☒ From the Pastor
- ☒ From Parish staff

- ☒ From the St. Vincent de Paul Society
- ☒ Another parish invites us
- ☒ The Archdiocese invites us
- ☒ Missionary invites us
- ☒ Read about it in the Detroit Catholic or other Catholic news sources
- ☒ Learned about it from other news media
- ☒ Local government asked us to help
- ☒ Another church or religious group asked us to help
- ☐ Other, specify

43. What are the three most pressing community social outreach needs in the area near your parish that you believe should be addressed?

Residents in assisted living communities, food/housing insecurity, young families.

44. Does your parish currently work to meet those needs? (Yes/Has Plans To/No)

45. If there is anything else you'd like to share related to outreach ministry at your parish, share it below.

46. As far as you know, how would you rate the community social outreach of other religious denominations in your community? (1 = poor, 5 = excellent) *Not known*

- a. Why did you select this rating? *We do not know what other denominations are doing.*

47. Is your parish working with a parish in another area to meet the needs of the poor and marginalized of the community? If yes, list the parish(es) that you are collaborating with and how you are collaborating. Yes. St Irenaeus, St. Damian Molaki, St. Hugo's, (Ladies of Charity Clothes Closet).

48. Does your parish collaborate with other community organizations on any programs that serve people outside of parish members? If yes, list the groups you are collaborating with and how you are collaborating. Yes. SVdP, St. Joseph Helpers, Faith Works, Thanksgiving and Easter Food Baskets.

49. Does your parish work with other faith denominations on any programs? If yes, list the program, the type of service provided and your ecumenical partner(s). No

50. Does your parish offer office space or meeting space to outside groups? If so, for what purpose(s)? Yes. YCP, AA, Spanish Marriage Group, Catholic Charities, Catholic Medical Association, 3rd & 4th degree Knights of Columbus

Section 6: Prayer and Worship

51. Using the list below, indicate if your parish provides these ministries. (check all that apply)

Special consideration or accommodation for families with young children at Mass and other prayer opportunities

- ☒ Music ministry, such as choir or other opportunities to engage the community in music as a form of prayer and worship
 - ☐ Music ministry for children, such as children's choir
 - ☒ Liturgy planning/environment ministry, such as decorations for various liturgical seasons and celebrations
 - ☒ Intercessory Prayer Team
 - ☒ Prayer opportunities incorporated into other ministry opportunities (e.g., making prayer blankets, small group ministry prayer)
 - ☒ Ministries dedicated to the Sunday Experience, such as hospitality, welcoming new families, etc.
 - ☒ Sacramental support including Anointing of the Sick, Communion, and visits to the homebound
 - ☒ Accessible Mass times for Holy Days of Obligation that allow more accessibility to individuals who work within parish boundaries
 - ☒ Other, specify
- Spiritual direction offered by retired priest

52. What kind of support do you need most from the Archdiocese to enhance your Prayer and Worship efforts?

Section 7: Cultural Considerations

53. Using the list below, indicate what cultural considerations your parish is currently making, if any (check all that apply).

Consideration and accommodations for

- ☒ families with children
- ☒ changing cultural demographics in area
- ☒ Various cultural expressions within your parish

- ☒ multi-generational households
- ☒ intercultural families
- ☒ interfaith families

Multi-cultural considerations

- ☒ More than one ethnic community within the parish boundaries
- ☐ Ministry and engagement efforts to attract and evangelize all the different ethnic communities
- ☒ Outreach efforts and social services for the different cultures in your parish boundaries

Language considerations

- ☐ American Sign Language (parishioners utilize or an interpreter is available)
- ☒ Assistance for the hard of hearing
- ☐ Other language needs (priest and/or parishioners speak or translation is available)

Intercultural competency

- ☐ Opportunities for intercultural competency training

54. Share below if your parish has specific considerations for cultural influences on the expression of prayer and worship, the Sunday experience, and sacramental preparation (e.g., Quinceñeras, cultural baptism prep, etc.).

Yes. Quinceñeras, Filipino weddings

Section 8: Other Comments

55. What other insights or information would your team like to share about your parish with the Archdiocesan Restructuring team?

Sacred Heart of Auburn Hills is a uniquely situated, ethnically diverse, thriving Catholic community. Since the retirement of Fr. Cavelier in 2021, the parish has been administered first by a retired priest (Fr. Joseph Grimaldi) for two years and then, since July 1, 2023, by Dcn Michael Stach as pastoral associate/administrator with the approval and supervision of our moderator, Fr. Mark Brauer. Since then, the parish has been spiritually supported by a cadre of retired priests (Fr. Joseph Grimaldi, Msgr. Anthony Tocco, Fr. George Hazler, Fr. Brian Chabala, and Fr. Juan Gonzalez) and two deacons (Dcn. David Fleming and Dcn. Michael Stach).

Since COVID, there has been a growth in membership, including young families, and after COVID, an increase in baptisms. Marriage preparation by the pastoral staff has also increased with the sacrament being celebrated in other parishes. OCIA participation has increased as well. Highly visible in Auburn Hills from Adams Road, the main north-south transit artery, Sacred Heart offers daily and weekend Mass while delivering the sacraments to three retirement/adult living communities of nearly 800 senior citizens.

Culturally the parish draws from Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White parishioners as well as Chaldean worshipers to its weekend Holy Masses and Confession. These groups also use the parish hall for cultural celebrations and community activities.

The parish is financially stable exceeding its Catholic Services Appeal target by 15% year after year while maintaining a healthy balance in its Archdiocese deposit on loan and local checking accounts. The budget had a surplus in operating revenue compared to expenses in the past five years with one exception, while executing a robust long-range major renovation and improvement plan for the church, rectory, parish hall and associated buildings. These improvements, which included safety and security upgrades, electrical energy and efficiency updates, selected roof replacement, parking lot resurfacing, and HVAC upgrades have extended the life of campus buildings beyond 2050.

In addition to the outreach activities listed in prior paragraphs we can supply letters from the Knights of Columbus, St Vincient De Paul, American House, and Pomeroy Living that testify to the importance of Sacred Heart Parish to their organizations

The parish leadership and parishioners are providing individual commentary on the Planning Area 10 Model Options provided by the Archdiocese. However, the Parish Key Leadership team felt strongly that we should give a collective position on the four options listed in the Planning Area 10 Overview.

Although Models A and D would be in the best interest of Sacred Heart because they would allow us to remain open, as a team we believe that a Modified Option C: St Hugo of the Hills & Sacred Heart with Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses celebrated in both parishes is the preferred option. As proposed in the plan there would be three priests assigned to the pastorate but only St Hugo would celebrate weekend masses, an underutilization of the active clergy in our opinion. Three diocesan priests (especially with the assistance of senior priests as we do now) can celebrate Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass at both parishes without exceeding Canon Law guidelines. The Sacred Heart rectory is fully capable of housing one to three clergy of active or retired status should a communal living of the clergy be preferred.

We also believe a Modified Option B: St Hugo of the Hills, Sacred Heart, and St Damien of Molokai with Saturday Vigil or Sunday Masses celebrated in all parishes on weekends is the next best option. As proposed by in the plan there would be four priests assigned to the parishes but only two parishes (St Hugo and St Damien) celebrating weekend masses, another underutilization of the active clergy in our opinion.

Both options that eliminate weekend masses at Sacred Heart disconnects the Auburn Hills Catholic community and senior living communities within our parish boundaries from their spiritual home of Sacred Heart. We have demonstrated that a parish can thrive and grow using the gifts of retired priests for administration of the sacraments (including Eucharist, Confessions and Anointing of the Sick). We believe we provide a model for how Sacred Heart can continue within a pastorate under the supervision of a pastor and contribute to the goals of Vibrant Parishes, Flourishing Priests, and being Mission Ready.