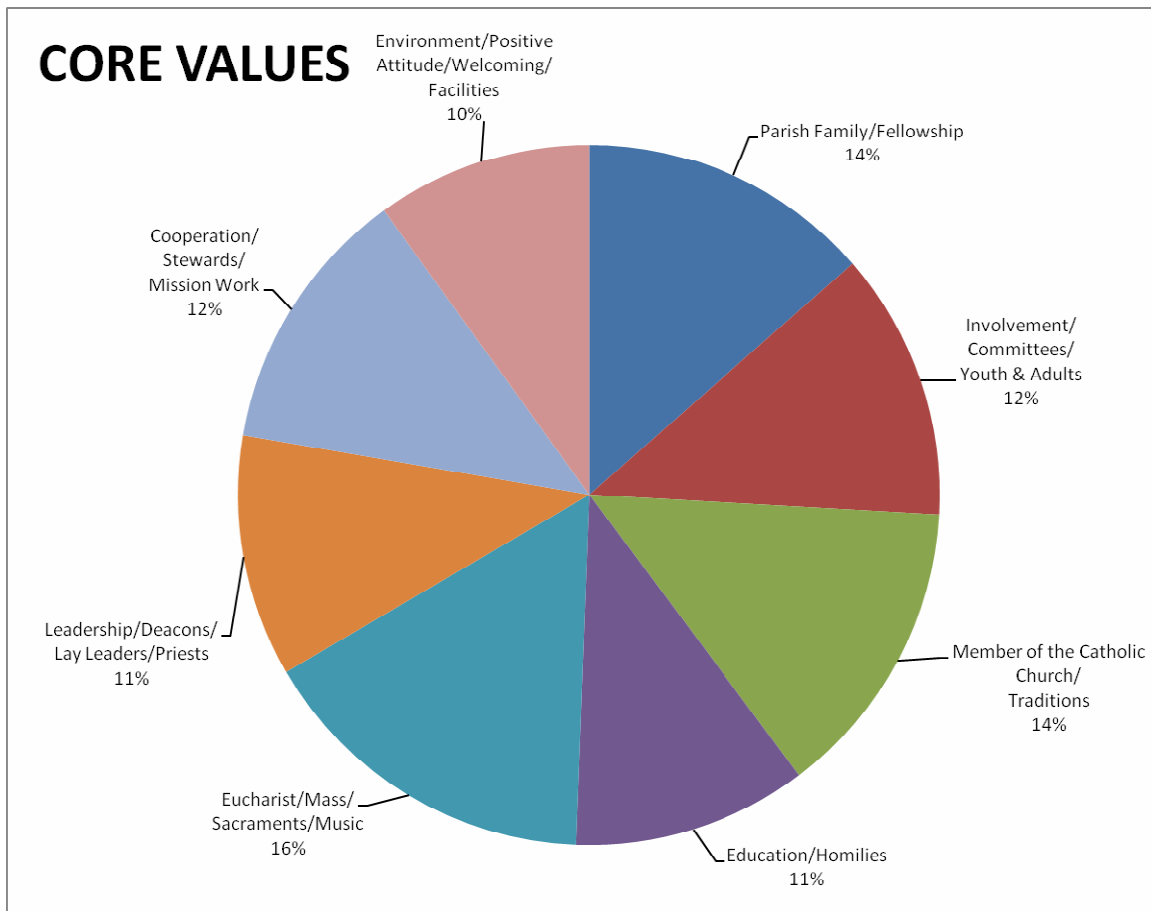


PARISH STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORTS

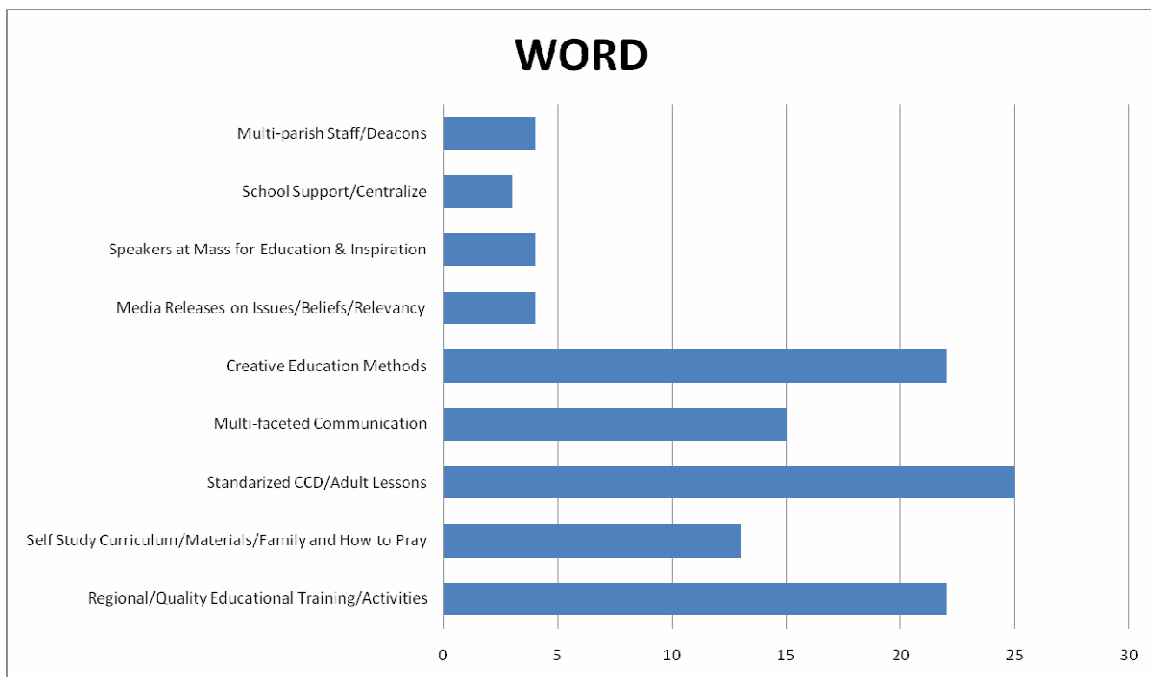
Reports from 79 of our 99 parishes have been received in the first phase of strategic planning. From these reports it is clear there is a great deal of unity in the things we cherish—we have common values about what is important about our faith communities.

Eight Core Values emerge from the compilation of parish reports: 1) Eucharist/ Mass/ Sacraments/ Liturgical Music; 2) Parish Family/Fellowship; 3) Membership in and the Traditions of the Catholic Church; 4) Involvement by youth and adults/participation in committees; 5) Cooperation/Stewardship/Mission Work; 6) Leadership/Deacons/Lay Leaders/Priests; 7) Education/Homilies; 8) Environment/Positive Attitude/ Welcoming/ Attractive Facilities.

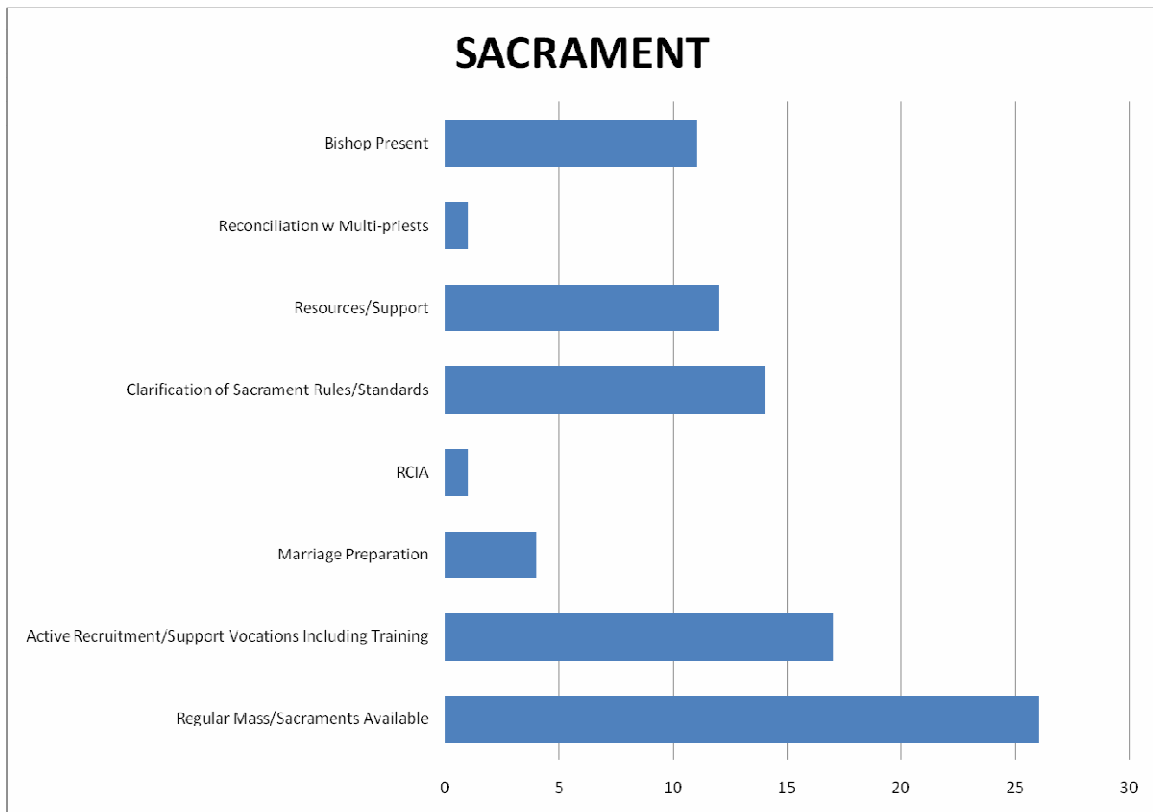


Centered on the Mission of the Bismarck Diocese “To be Ambassadors for Christ in Word, Sacrament, Service and Stewardship” the membership of each parish was invited to dream about what the diocese should do to make things even better in the future.

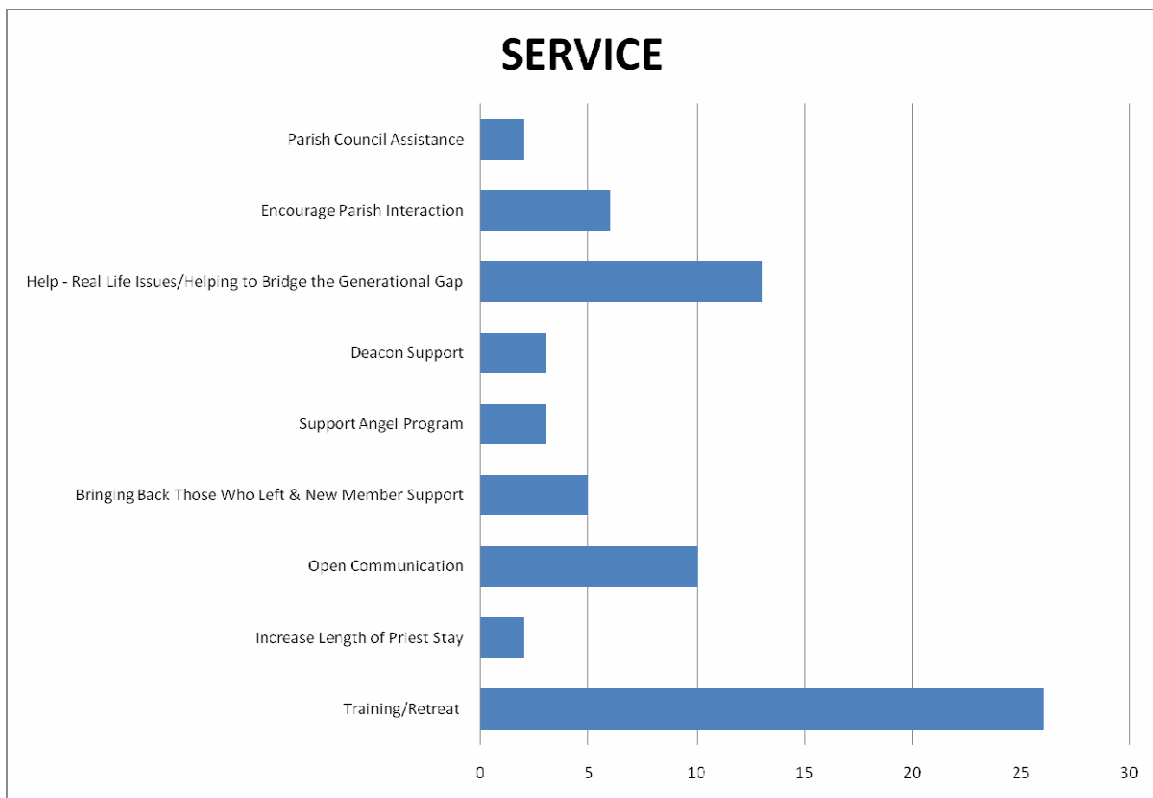
Regarding **Word**: to nourish the faith life of Catholics of all ages in the truths of the Gospel, the formation of conscience, and in their relationship with God; to evangelize ourselves, our families, our parish and local communities, and our world. Participants identified nine common areas of emphasis: 1) standardized CCD/ adult lesson; 2) creative education methods; 3) regional/quality educational training/activities; 4) multi-faceted communication; 5) self study curriculum/materials/useful for families/how to pray; 6) multi-parish staff/deacons; 7) speakers at mass for education and inspiration; 8) media releases on issues/beliefs/relevancy; 9) school support/centralize



Regarding **Sacrament**: to make the Eucharist and the sacraments the heart and center of the parish community so parishioners may become the Body and Blood of Christ; to celebrate our faith with joy through vibrant prayerful worship. The planning workshop reports placed emphasis on eight areas: 1) regular mass/sacraments available; 2) active recruitment/support vocations including training; 3) clarification of sacrament rules/standards; 4) resources/support; 5) visibility and presence of the bishop; 6) marriage preparation; 7) reconciliation services with multiple priests; 8) RCIA.



Regarding **Service**: to reach out in love and service to those in need and toward families, in ministries of charity and justice; to ensure the right of the baptized to a full and active participation in the life of the Church; to encourage members to consider pursuing a vocation to ordained ministry and religious life. Nine areas were emphasized: 1) training/retreats; 2) help with real life issues, helping to bridge the generational gap; 3) open communication; 4) encouragement of parish interaction; 5) bringing back those who left and new member support; 6) deacon support; 7) support angel program; 8) assistance for parish councils; 9) increase length of priests' stay.



Regarding **Stewardship**: to adopt a grateful lifestyle and spirituality of appreciation for the many gifts God gives us; to develop and manage the material, financial and human resources of the Church. Nine areas of emphasis: 1) parish support; 2) communication on resources/programs; 3) clarification of the meaning of stewardship; 4) clear/accountable use of time, talent and money; 5) regional training; 6) parish and priest preparation for cluster work; 7) faith formation/stewardship spirituality; 8) young people support; 9) mission support.

