



# 5. Special Study Side Trips

## Trends and Insights in the Parish and Surrounding Community

While the Parish Pastoral Council (and additional volunteers, if warranted) conducts the listening phase, some smaller groups or individuals could be researching supplemental information in sources of information such as:

- Overall Parish Vitality indicators (see enclosed article, for example)
- Parish and Geographic Area Demographics (worksheets enclosed)
- Finances — income/expenses, trends, projections (Finance Council probably already has this, and could provide some highlights for Pastoral Council benefit)
- Facilities — capacity, conditions, needs and ways to share with other parishes or community organizations
- Parish Ministries — all existing services, who is served, when are these available, and in what ways are people better served by a collaborative effort with other parishes?  
(These could be reviewed in relationship to Bishop Bambera’s Pastoral Letter, *“Wounded and Healed: Regathering the Scattered.”* — see sample worksheets)

You drafted this chart at the beginning of the planning process — need to revise?

| Type of assessment       | Y/N | Person, Group Assigned | Target completion |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------------|-------------------|
| Demographics: Parish     |     |                        |                   |
| Demographics: Local Area |     |                        |                   |
| Facilities               |     |                        |                   |
| Finances                 |     |                        |                   |
| Ministries/Staffing      |     |                        |                   |
| Other:                   |     |                        |                   |

In regard to each assessment complete, highlight key findings:

- Trends (what is rising/declining/stable)
- Surprises and striking points of interest
- What is sustainable/not sustainable

