

Invite One Back Series with

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Part 3: “Discipleship Metrics That Matter: Bridging Data with Mission”

PART 2 RECAP

Before COVID-19, 24% of adult Catholics attended Mass once a week; now that figure is just 17%.

[\(Eucharistic Beliefs: A National Survey of Adult Catholics\)](#)

In the last webinar, we covered the essential qualities of a thriving parish and how to conduct a parish assessment.

We also discussed how to build a solid foundation and enhance parish health.

The complete handouts and webinar recordings from the series are now available on our [NEC Hub](#).

PART 3 HIGHLIGHTS

THE SHEPHERD’S COUNT: NUMBERS AS LIVES IN MINISTRY

Every number is a story and a soul.

The Early Church kept track of growth:

- Acts 2:4 and 47 - People were “added to their number.”
- Acts 2:41—Specifically notes that 3,000 were added.
- Acts 5:14— “More believers in the Lord were added to them.”
- Acts 6:1 and 7— “The number of disciples continued to grow.”
- Acts 16:5—Established churches increased in numbers daily.
- Acts 17:4—Notes a certain city had multiple believers and a few of the chief women became believers.

OVERCOMING DATA AVERSION FOR MISSION

Common hesitations towards data in ministry:

- Too focused on the single soul
 - “If just one person is converted, it’s worth it.”

- Be stewards of time, resources, and energy. Leaders need to hold a tension with data in ministry.
- Data is a tool to help you make prudent decisions, provide feedback, and discern next steps.
- Data is not the end-all, and leaders should be cautious of being chained to numbers.

LEVERAGING DATA FOR INVITE ONE BACK

Types of data

- Mass attendance
- Volunteer engagement
- New volunteers
- Phone calls (outgoing and engaged) to parishioners you’re inviting back
- Website views
- Social media followers and engagement

Data needs to be used to draw conclusions or make inferences.

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Track after specific points to determine baseline or starting point, and then measure change.

SMART Goals

- **Specific**—this tells you what kind of data you will need.
- **Measurable**—this indicates the metrics you will need to use.
- **Achievable**—this keeps you grounded.
- **Relevant**—this is a great place for demographic data.
- **Time-bound**—this identifies the timeframe you will need to collect the data.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO MEASURE DATA

Generate attendance reports.

Develop a volunteer ambassador program.

- Outline your parish’s goals.
- Identify information or data you will need to determine success.
- Research tools or methods for gathering data and how you will collect them.
- Be aware of what may introduce bias or skew your data.
- Assign someone to manage your data and ensure that it’s clear for everyone to see.

FEEDBACK FROM PARISH LEADERS

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