

# Pastoral Conference 22

*“While recent efforts at pastoral planning have been helpful, we realize that something significant is needed now, in order for us to fulfill the Lord’s desire that we live as his disciples and share the joy of the gospel with others in the years to come.”*

—ARCHBISHOP GEORGE LUCAS

## WHERE WE ARE

Fulfilling the Church’s mission faces new challenges caused by changes such as shifts in population from rural areas to urban centers, disaffiliation and disengagement, a new generation of Catholics and fewer clergy.

### STATISTICS FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA



**240,000**  
Archdiocese Catholics

Only 25% Attend Mass

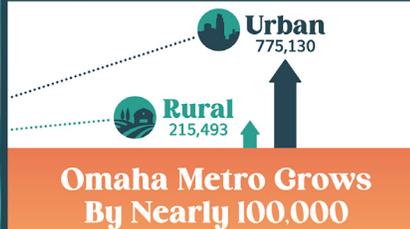
- For every 2 new adult converts to Catholicism in the U.S., 13 adults leave our faith.
- The Archdiocese of Omaha has experienced a 42% drop in Mass attendance since 2003.
- Nebraska’s population is becoming more concentrated in a few counties, and the population of many rural counties continues to decline.
- There are 111 active priests in the archdiocese. In 2032, there will be 81 active priests, a 27% decline.
- Only 25% of northeast Nebraska Catholics attend Mass.

### Stretched Too Far

#### Fewer Priests



### Major Population Shift



### Rapid Growth Challenges Hispanic Ministries



## WHERE WE ARE GOING

Archbishop Lucas has set an ambitious goal for our parishes to become missional (outward-looking) communities, to move from “maintenance to mission.” It is easy to get into maintenance mode, doing things the way they’ve always been done, even when doing so holds us back from spreading the Gospel as well as we should.

When we commit to our mission, our parishes will be alive in faith, filled with vitality, ready to form us as people who radiate Christ at home, in our neighborhoods, and workplace, towns and cities, and in the world.

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

*“This is a pilgrimage, we might say, that’s being guided by the Holy Spirit, and it’s going to be more fruitful the more of us who understand why we’re doing what we’re doing and who are willing to participate.”*

—ARCHBISHOP GEORGE LUCAS

