

PREPARATION AND PLANNING STAGES

Ten Most Important Activities

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Percent Responding "Very Important"</i>
1. During the planning process my pastor was an understanding and positive force. (<i>Leadership</i>)	75
2. Parishioners were educated about the diocesan availability of priests. (<i>Education/Communication</i>)	73
3. Parishioners had enough information to understand why a change might be needed. (<i>Education/Communication</i>)	73
4. A group was formed that included pastors and lay representatives from each participating parish. (<i>Process</i>)	68
5. Following the announcement of the decision to restructure, my pastor was helpful in dealing with parishioners' concerns. (<i>Leadership</i>)	67
6. Potential partner parishes for the restructuring were discussed with the parishioners. (<i>Consultation</i>)	65
7. Prayer was a central part of the planning process that resulted in the decision to restructure. (<i>Process</i>)	62
8. Open joint meetings with parishioners from all participating parishes were held. (<i>Process</i>)	58
9. Members of our pastoral council were supportive of the restructuring decision. (<i>Leadership</i>)	56
10. (Tie) Options other than restructuring were thoroughly and honestly discussed with parishioners before the decision to restructure was made. (<i>Consultation</i>)	54
10. (Tie) Open meetings were held with parishioners from their own parish. (<i>Process</i>)	54

From: Villanova University Survey of Parishes Undergoing Restructuring, in Zech, C.E. & Miller, R.J. (2008) Listening to the People of God: Closing, Rebuilding and Revitalizing Parishes. New York: Paulist Press.