

# REPORT OF SATURDAY–SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE

## October 2018

### SUMMARY

**Approximately 20 percent of Chicago Area Catholics in attendance at Mass during 2018 October count**

For the average weekend in October 2018 the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Chicago reported a total of 379,168 persons in attendance at 1,620 regularly scheduled masses plus other special weekend celebrations. In addition, there were at least 11,849 persons in attendance on the average weekend at other reporting institutions in the archdiocese. The parish and mission average for 2018 is less (-4.2 percent or -16,760) than the October 2017 average of 395,928. The combined parish, mission and institution actual count of 391,017 is 18 percent of the estimated 2,183,000 Catholic population of the archdiocese.

### PARISHES AND MISSIONS

**The overall count at parishes and missions decreased by ~4.2 percent (about 16,760 persons), ~34 percent of the parishes/missions experienced an increase.**

Three hundred thirty-seven (337) out of 347 parishes and missions reported counts in both 2017 and 2018, 66 percent reported decreases. Among these 223 parishes and missions the average decrease was about 106 persons per parish/mission between 2017 and 2018 or a total of 23,722 persons. Thirty-four (34) percent of the parishes and missions responding in both years reported increases. For these parishes the average increase was 63 persons per parish/mission between 2017 and 2018 or a total of 7,001 persons. One parish reported the same average for both 2017 and 2018 (the weekly totals and individual mass counts differ between the years). The net result for the 337 parishes and missions reporting in both years is an overall decrease of 16,721 persons or 4.3 percent.

## **OTHER CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS**

### **48 non-parish institutions hold mass for ~ 12,000 persons**

Many of the non-parish Catholic institutions in the archdiocese, such as hospitals and religious communities, schedule regular weekend masses for staff and the special publics they serve. Since the October count project began in 1986 several hundred have been contacted. By 1990 it was found that just over one third have regularly scheduled weekend services. Each year some new institutions are added to the list and some that no longer have services are asked if they have started again. For the October 2018 count 80 institutions were asked to participate if regularly scheduled services were held. From the 80, 48 or 60 percent participated in the 2018 count.

The participating institutions report an average weekend attendance for October 2018 of 11,849 persons. There were 39 institutions that participated in both October 2017 and 2018. For October 2017 these 39 reported an average attendance of 12,235 persons. For October 2018 they report an attendance of 11,071, a decrease of 9.5 percent. For those reporting in both years, 11 report increases in attendance while 27 report decreases in the count for 2018, while one remained the same. Estimated attendance for institutions not participating suggests that around 750 persons were in attendance at these sites. Hence it is accurate to say that around 12,600 persons attended masses in non-parish/mission settings in the Archdiocese of Chicago during the average weekend of October 2018.

### **Hospitals serve ~570 Mass-goers on average weekend in October, and aging and residential care centers serve another ~1,150**

Eight of the 11 Catholic hospitals holding weekend services participated in the October count project for 2018. These eight taken together had an attendance average of 514 for October 2018 or roughly 64 persons per institution. Seven participated in both years and had their attendance increase from 466 in 2017 to 492 in 2018. Based on past responses it is accurate to say that around 600 persons attended masses in 11 Catholic hospital chapels during the average weekend of October 2018. Three other hospitals that had regularly scheduled weekend services report a combined total of 55 persons in attendance. Among 12 Catholic nursing, retirement and residential care homes that responded, there was a combined average of about 1,145 persons in attendance or about 95 persons per weekend per institution. Among the 8 institutions reporting in both years there was a decrease of -4.1 percent from 805 in 2017 to 772 in 2018.

### **Three campus ministry sites serve ~1,400 for Mass**

Four campus ministry sites participated in the project for 2018. A combined total of 1,419 were reported in attendance for the average weekend of October 2018.

### **Men and women religious communities have weekend services with count of ~2,900, while shrines/oratories count ~5,800**

Five of the six communities of men religious reported their weekend services were attended by 32 to 2,301 persons at the sites. Four of the sites use languages not available in nearby parishes. (Three are retreat centers as well as houses of men religious). The five reported a combined total of 2,536 persons in attendance for the average weekend of October 2018. Six of the eight communities of women religious reported weekend services for a combined total of 369 persons in attendance per weekend.

Eleven non-parish shrines/oratories with regularly scheduled weekend services report a combined total average attendance of 5,811 persons – with 71 percent of that total attending Maryville-O.L. Guadalupe Shrine. Airport ministries reported an average of 162 persons per weekend.