



## **WRIGLEY FIELD GROUPING**

### *Strengths and Challenges*

#### **Strengths**

1. Strong social justice/outreach ministries including a food pantry, soup kitchen, sandwich program, etc.
2. Welcoming faith communities/ministries for people of different ethnic backgrounds (Latino, Filipino, Native American), languages, sexual orientations, migration status and incomes.
3. Financial strength/savings in many parishes.
4. Beautiful, historic church buildings that are located on prominent streets on the northside.
5. Parish communities that bring together long-timers (“legacy families”) and newcomers.
6. Three strong and thriving parish schools.
7. Uplifting liturgies at some parishes and a perpetual adoration chapel at Our Lady of Lourdes.
8. With many families with young children there are opportunities to form and inspire the next generation of Catholics.
9. A history of collaboration among many of the parishes.

#### **Challenges/Opportunities**

1. Mass attendance at most of the parishes in the Grouping is declining.
2. Sacramental preparation numbers are low given the number of children in the parishes and neighborhoods.
3. No strategy for reaching renters and other more transient community members.
4. Room for improvement in weekend liturgies – not all are inspiring.
5. Priests are tasked with many administrative responsibilities which lessens the time they have for pastoring their flock.
6. How will the many groups/populations be served if we reduce the number of separate parishes/ministry locations?
7. Many aging buildings on our parish campuses with lots of deferred maintenance.
8. Better engagement with young adults to help them renew their faith/grow as disciples is needed.
9. Need to move beyond serving the faithful in the pews to engage with our wider set of neighbors.
10. We tend to depend on the same set of (aging) volunteers – how to inspire new people to step up and become parish leaders?