

## DARE TO BELIEVE Parish Assessment Tool

The DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT Parish Assessment Tool enables pastors, preachers, catechetical leaders, parish visionaries, and lay leaders to assess how engaged the laity are—and how engaged the regional church is—in the work of being church in service to the region where it is situated.

This tool assesses the (1) sacramental, (2) intellectual, and (3) experiential engagement of pastoral and catechetical leaders and laity alike—including families and youth—in ways that can confidently animate the church's presence in the civic sphere.

The Parish Assessment Tool begins on the next page.

Excerpted from *Dare to Believe, Rise Up to Act: Equipping Laity to be the Public Face of Christ*  
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## 1. DARE TO BELIEVE: SACRAMENTAL ENGAGEMENT

<b>1-1.</b> Am I— <i>are we as pastoral leaders</i> — <b>aware of the rhythms</b> of paschal mystery (dying and receiving new life) that shape each sacramental experience and make sense of <i>our</i> lives?	Yes	Sort of	No	
Unsure				
How so? Or why not? What are the stories?				
<b>1-1a.</b> Are our <b>families and adults</b> aware of the rhythms of paschal mystery (dying and receiving new life) that shape each sacramental experience and make sense of <b>their</b> lives?	Yes	Sort of	No	
Unsure				
How so? What are some stories?				
<b>1-1b.</b> Are our <b>youth</b> aware of the rhythms of paschal mystery (dying and receiving new life) that shape each sacramental experience and make sense of <b>their</b> lives?	Yes	Sort of	No	
Unsure				
How so? What are some stories?				
<b>1-2.</b> Am I— <i>are we as leaders</i> — <b>increasingly conformed to Christ</b> by <i>our</i> sacramental experience of paschal mystery for intentional engagement in the world?	Yes	Sort of	No	
Unsure				
How so? Or why not? How does this support my leadership?				
<b>1-2a.</b> Are our <b>families and adults</b> increasingly conformed to Christ by <i>their</i> sacramental experience of paschal mystery for intentional engagement in the world?	Yes	Sort of	No	
Unsure				
How so? What are some stories?				

<p><b>1-2b.</b> Are our <b>youth</b> increasingly conformed to Christ by <i>their</i> sacramental experience of paschal mystery for intentional engagement in the world?</p>	<p>Yes   Sort of   No Unsure</p>
<p>How so? What are some stories?</p>	
<p><b>1-3.</b> Am I—<i>are we as leaders</i>—<b>able to name</b> these rhythms of paschal mystery at work in <i>our own</i> personal lives? in the surrounding community? in the larger social and political rhythms of society?</p>	<p>Yes   Sort of   No Unsure</p>
<p>How so? Or why not? What are the stories?</p>	
<p><b>1-3a.</b> Are our <b>families and adults</b> able to name these rhythms of paschal mystery at work in personal and family life? in the surrounding community? in the larger social and political rhythms of society?</p>	<p>Yes   Sort of   No Unsure</p>
<p>How so? What are some stories?</p>	
<p><b>1-3b.</b> Are our <b>youth</b> able to name these rhythms of paschal mystery at work in personal and family life? in the surrounding community? in the larger social and political rhythms of society?</p>	<p>Yes   Sort of   No Unsure</p>
<p>How so? What are some stories?</p>	
<p><b>1-4.</b> Am I—<i>are we as leaders</i>—<b>able to share stories</b> of God at work—in <i>us</i> and through <i>us</i>—for the good of the world <i>we</i> touch?</p>	<p>Yes   Sort of   No Unsure</p>
<p>How so? Or why not? What are the stories?</p>	

<b>1-4a.</b> Are our <b>families and adults</b> able to share stories of God at work—in <i>them</i> and through <i>them</i> —for the good of the world <i>they</i> touch?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? What are some stories?	
<b>1-4b.</b> Are our <b>youth</b> able to share stories of God at work—in <i>them</i> and through <i>them</i> —for the good of the world <i>they</i> touch?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? What are some stories?	
<b>2. DARE TO BELIEVE: INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT</b>	
<b>2-1.</b> Am I— <i>are we as leaders</i> — <b>confidently versed</b> in the core elements of Catholic social teaching and the church’s social tradition?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? Or why not? How does this support my leadership?	
<b>2-1a.</b> Are our <b>families and adults</b> confidently versed in the core elements of Catholic social teaching and the church’s social tradition?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? What are some stories?	
<b>2-1b.</b> Are our <b>youth</b> confidently versed in the core elements of Catholic social teaching and the church’s social tradition?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? What are some stories?	

<b>2-2.</b> Am I— <i>are we as leaders</i> — <b>able to coherently discuss</b> the issues of the day from the perspective of Catholic social teaching and the church’s social tradition?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? Or why not? What are some examples?	
<b>2-2a.</b> Are our <b>families and adults</b> able to coherently discuss the issues of the day from the perspective of Catholic social tradition?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? What are some stories?	
<b>2-2b.</b> Are our <b>youth</b> able to coherently discuss the issues of the day from the perspective of Catholic social tradition?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? What are some stories?	
<b>2-3.</b> Am I— <i>are we as leaders</i> — <b>well practiced</b> in reading the signs of the times through a Gospel (rather than partisan) lens?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? Or why not? How does this support my leadership?	
<b>2-3a.</b> Are our <b>families and adults</b> well practiced in reading the signs of the times through a Gospel (rather than partisan) lens?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? What are some stories?	
<b>2-3b.</b> Are our <b>youth</b> well practiced in reading the signs of the times through a Gospel (rather than partisan) lens?	Yes   Sort of   No  Unsure
How so? What are some stories?	

<b>2-4.</b> Do I— <i>do we as leaders</i> —bring <b>intellectual depth and compelling Gospel clarity</b> to the larger conversation in the social or civic arena?	Yes	Sort of	No
Unsure			
How so? Or why not? How does this support my leadership?			
<b>2-4a.</b> Do our <b>families and adults</b> bring intellectual depth and compelling Gospel clarity to the larger conversation in the social or civic arena?	Yes	Sort of	No
Unsure			
How so? What are some stories?			
<b>2-4b.</b> Do our <b>youth</b> bring intellectual depth and compelling Gospel clarity to the larger conversation in their social arena?	Yes	Sort of	No
Unsure			
How so? What are some stories?			
<b>3. DARE TO BELIEVE: EXPERIENTIAL ENGAGEMENT</b>			
<b>3-1.</b> Do I— <i>do we as leaders</i> — <b>actively respond</b> to urgent or long-term needs in the broader community?	Yes	Sort of	No
Unsure			
How so? Or why not? What are the stories?			
<b>3-1a.</b> Do our <b>families and adults</b> actively respond to urgent or long-term needs in the broader community?	Yes	Sort of	No
Unsure			
How so? What are some stories?			
<b>3-1b.</b> Do our <b>youth</b> actively respond to urgent or long-term needs in the broader community?	Yes	Sort of	No
Unsure			

How so? What are some stories?			
<b>3-2.</b> Do I— <i>do we as leaders</i> — <b>help to mobilize rapid response</b> to urgent or long-term needs in the broader community?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	
How so? Or why not? What are some examples?			
<b>3-2a.</b> Do our <b>families and adults</b> help to mobilize rapid response to urgent or long-term needs in the broader community?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	
How so? What are some stories?			
<b>3.2b.</b> Do our <b>youth</b> help to mobilize rapid response to urgent or long-term needs in the broader community?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	
How so? What are some stories?			
<b>3-3.</b> Do I— <i>do we as leaders</i> — <b>have stories to share</b> of our experience of responding to community crises or long-term needs?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	
What are the stories? Does this support my leadership?			
<b>3-3a.</b> Do our <b>families and adults</b> have stories to share of their experience of responding to community crises or long-term needs?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	
What are some stories?			
<b>3-3b.</b> Do our <b>youth</b> have stories to share of their experience of responding to community crises or long-term needs?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	

What are some stories?			
<b>3-4.</b> Do I— <i>do we as leaders</i> — <b>publicly live our faith</b> in ways that persuade others to join the church? or return to the church?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	
How so? Or why not? What are the stories?			
<b>3-4a.</b> Do our <b>families and adults</b> publicly live <i>their</i> faith in ways that persuade others to join the church? or return to the church?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	
How so? What are some stories?			
<b>3-4b.</b> Do our <b>youth</b> publicly live <i>their</i> faith in ways that persuade others to join the church? or return to the church?	Yes	Sort of	No
		Unsure	
How so? What are some stories?			