

Our Sunday Visitor

Enriching Parishes...Enhancing Community

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2010

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STATE OF THE PARISH REPORTS DELIVER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHURCHES AND DIOCESES

HUNTINGTON, IN – Catholic dioceses and churches looking to provide transparency to parishioners can now use the State of the Parish Report from Our Sunday Visitor (OSV). The report is a four-page, full-color publication sent to parishioners. As part of the trusted Loaves+Fishes® brand of stewardship products, the State of the Parish Report is designed to increase parishioner engagement.

OSV provides a State of the Parish Report template that contains specific sections for parishes and dioceses to complete in Word or Excel documents. OSV uses those documents to create a designed four-color, professionally designed report. After the proof is approved, OSV will print it on 80# coated stock paper and mail the report to parishioners' homes or in bulk to the parish for distribution.

Contents of the State of the Parish report can include anything from mission statements, financial reports and updates on ministries to parish achievements and sacramental data.

Julie Kenny, OSV manager of Stewardship Services, says the State of the Parish Report is becoming increasingly popular as a way to communicate how finances are used to support the mission of the church or diocese. "Accountability and transparency are so important today," she explains. "People expect it from businesses and are now expecting it from their churches."

While the State of the Parish report can stand alone, many churches use it to introduce a capital campaign, new offertory or stewardship program or as part of a regular newsletter. "Parishioners want to know how their contributions are spent and where their money is going," Kenny adds. "The State of the Parish Report provides a level of detail they are looking for."

The Archdiocese of St. Louis is one of many dioceses using the report. According to Susan Erschen, director of stewardship education, the template is easy to use and administer. "The report is set up in clean, concise manner and is easily understood by parishioners," she says. "The report has the potential to create a sense of pride and accomplishment in the parish."

For more information on the State of the Parish Report template, call Our Sunday Visitor Offertory Solutions Division, 800-348-2886, or visit the Web site, www.osvoffertory.com.

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About Our Sunday Visitor

Our Sunday Visitor serves millions of Catholics worldwide through its publishing, offertory and communication services. Established in 1912 by a local priest, Our Sunday Visitor has grown into the nation's largest supplier of offering envelopes, parish and diocesan mailings, books, periodicals, curriculum, address management and stewardship services. Our Sunday Visitor is a not-for-profit organization, returning a portion of net earnings back to the Catholic community through the OSV Institute. For more information, visit the Web site, <http://www.osvoffertory.com>.