



Helping transform and improve Orthodox Christian parishes, organizations, and ministries in order to strengthen the body of Christ

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Doctors know the tests to administer to assess our personal health. Financial planners know how to assess our financial health. However, our parishes lack similar empirical and validated tools to help them. Would you like your parish to have a reliable, easy, and free way to assess your parish health and effectiveness, and receive a professional analysis to address your biggest challenges?

After over 20 years of working with over 500 Orthodox Christian parishes and completing strategic plans that cover over 26% of Orthodox Christians in the U.S., the **Orthodox Ministry Services (OMS)** team has developed the **Effective Parish Assessment (EPA)**. OMS is providing the Effective Parish Assessment for free to selected parishes in the United States.

Is your parish an innovator or early adopter with Clergy and Lay Leaders committed to operational excellence and ensuring the best possible parish health and effectiveness?

OMS Cohort Effective Parish Program

The empirical data shows that there are 6 Operational Pillars that must be optimized to excellence in the most healthy and effective Orthodox Christian parishes. The research also shows that there are a total of 30 Operational Building Blocks that support those 6 Pillars.

The OMS **Effective Parish Assessment 1 (EPA 1)** gives a parish an assessment of its operational effectiveness in the 6 Pillars. The **Effective Parish Assessment 2 (EPA 2)** gives a parish a more detailed assessment of its effectiveness in all 30 Building Blocks of operational excellence.

If your parish is chosen to participate in the **Cohort Effective Parish Program**, OMS will make available the EPA 1 and EPA 2 through an easily accessible online survey process to everyone in your parish, including an agreed-upon group of parish leaders.

After your Parish Participants complete the online full Effective Parish Assessment (EPA 1 and EPA 2), and OMS analyzes the empirical results, your parish will receive a color-coded assessment of its assessed effectiveness in the 6 Pillars and 30 Building Blocks. This assessment will provide you a roadmap of where your parish could focus to achieve greater health and operational effectiveness.

You will also receive a Preliminary Parish Improvement Plan (P-PIP). The P-PIP will outline some best practices ideas and strategies to help you address your most significant parish operational challenges.

In addition, each selected Cohort Effective Parish will receive personalized consultations with appropriate OMS subject matter experts to begin to help you understand how you can better address your needs and challenges. And again, all of this is free thanks to the generosity of OMS, Leadership 100, and the GOA Stewardship Department.



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Cohort Effective Parishes

The selected Cohort Effective Parishes will have a Priest of at least 5 years of experience who has served the Cohort Effective Parish for at least 1 full year so that he has earned the trust and support of his community. Cohort Effective Parishes will also have Lay Leaders willing to undertake a meaningful self-assessment and consider necessary operational improvements.

The Cohort Effective Parish Program is not yet open for mission parishes or parishes with serious issues where a consensus is harder to achieve. Instead, the ideal Cohort Effective Parish is an innovator and early adopter parish with Clergy and Lay Leaders that are aware of the need to constantly improve their operational effectiveness.

Next Steps

I have provided a short outline of the Cohort Effective Parish Program and an informational presentation that describes this powerful, helpful, and free solution to your parish's most critical challenges.

If your parish meets the above criteria and is interested in applying to be a Cohort Effective Parish, please email your parish name and city, and the name, email address and phone number of the appropriate contact person to cohortparish@effectiveparish.org.

We are confident that the Cohort Effective Parish Program can help improve your parish's operational effectiveness and health. Thank you in advance for your interest and for everything else you do.

May God bless you and grant you many years.

Yours in Christ,

Bill Marianes
OMS Cohort Effective Parish Program Director