

# Environmental Scanning

## LOCALITY EVANGELIZATION PLANNING TOOL

Environmental Scanning is a systematic examination of the world, as it affects our Regnum Christi mission, in order to be fully informed of significant internal and external trends, developments, and constraints to allow Regnum Christi to be proactive in planning for and responding to change.

The objectives of such a scan will help:

- Detect the trends and events important to the local and universal Church (e.g. environmental, political, economic, etc.), and
- Defined the potential opportunities, risks/threats, or changes implied by those trends and events.
- Ensure that your plan is fully-informed and relevant, therefore not developed in a vacuum.

The **External Scan** looks at the current reality surrounding your Locality. It considers an analysis or at least a scanning of the following areas to take into consideration:

- **NEEDS OF THE UNIVERSAL AND LOCAL CHURCH:** What are the current needs of the Universal Church and Local Church?
  - What are the priorities of your Archbishop/Bishop that you serve?
  - What is happening in surrounding parishes? What is needed?
- **DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES:** Demographic changes, including aging of population, may impact interest or capacities to engage or participate in your plan. See data example below:
  - In 1990, the population 60 and over in our country was approximately 248,000,000. In 2030, that number is expected to be 373,000,000.
  - The aging population is distributed disproportionately, which will require different resources in different parts of the country.
- **SOCIAL/CULTURE TRENDS/ISSUES:** What are current *Social & Cultural* trends/issues that are impacting your surroundings?
- **SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY TRENDS/ISSUES:** What are science & technology trends/issues that may need to be addressed? Or in some cases, technology that we can leverage in our operations (e.g. Zoom)? In some cases they may be obstacles to our mission.
- **ECONOMIC TRENDS/ISSUES:** What is happening in the economy that might impact our plan – trends/ issues – both positively or negative impacts?
- **EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIP POSSIBILITIES:** What organizations exist that we might partner with?
- **OTHERS:** Look around...what else might you consider that is happening around you that might impact your plan in one way or another?

The results of the SCAN are potential areas to plan around – though your plan will not be able to address them all.

The environmental scan is a 3-step approach which can be as simple or sophisticated as you like. The key is to consider each of the areas and any others that your team identifies as necessary to assess.

