

# Congress X Plan of Action

## Diocesan-Level Progress

SPRING 2009 SURVEY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### BACKGROUND

The Congress X Plan of Action, *A Proven Foundation for Fruitful Ministry*, was affirmed at the final session of Congress X in July 2007, then published as a 28-page document and distributed to all Offices of Black Catholic or Multicultural Ministry in December 2007.

For each of the NBCC's Core Principles, a Leadership Commission used an Appreciative Inquiry process to discern long-term goals and steps needed to achieve each goal. Some Leadership Commissions set action steps for the NBCC and other national Catholic organizations, as well as steps that could be accomplished by parishes and dioceses.

In April 2009, the NBCC emailed an online survey to all our diocesan contacts in Black Catholic Ministry seeking progress reports on those action steps that apply to the parish or diocesan levels. Following the format of past pastoral plan evaluations, for each action step we asked diocesan leaders to assess whether they were making "advanced," "some," or "little to no" progress and then we asked for explanations or comments.

Representatives from forty arch/dioceses finished the survey. This is comparable to response levels in the past. Percentages reported here are based on those 40: *Allentown, Austin, Baton Rouge, Birmingham, Boston, Bridgeport, Charleston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, Fresno, Gary, Grand Rapids, Harrisburg, Indianapolis, Joliet, Kansas City-St. Joseph, Lansing, Los Angeles, Louisville, Miami, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Owensboro, Palm Beach, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Rockville Centre, Saint Paul and Minneapolis, San Angelo, San Bernardino, Springfield MA, Springfield IL, St. Augustine, St. Louis, Toledo.*

#### FINDINGS

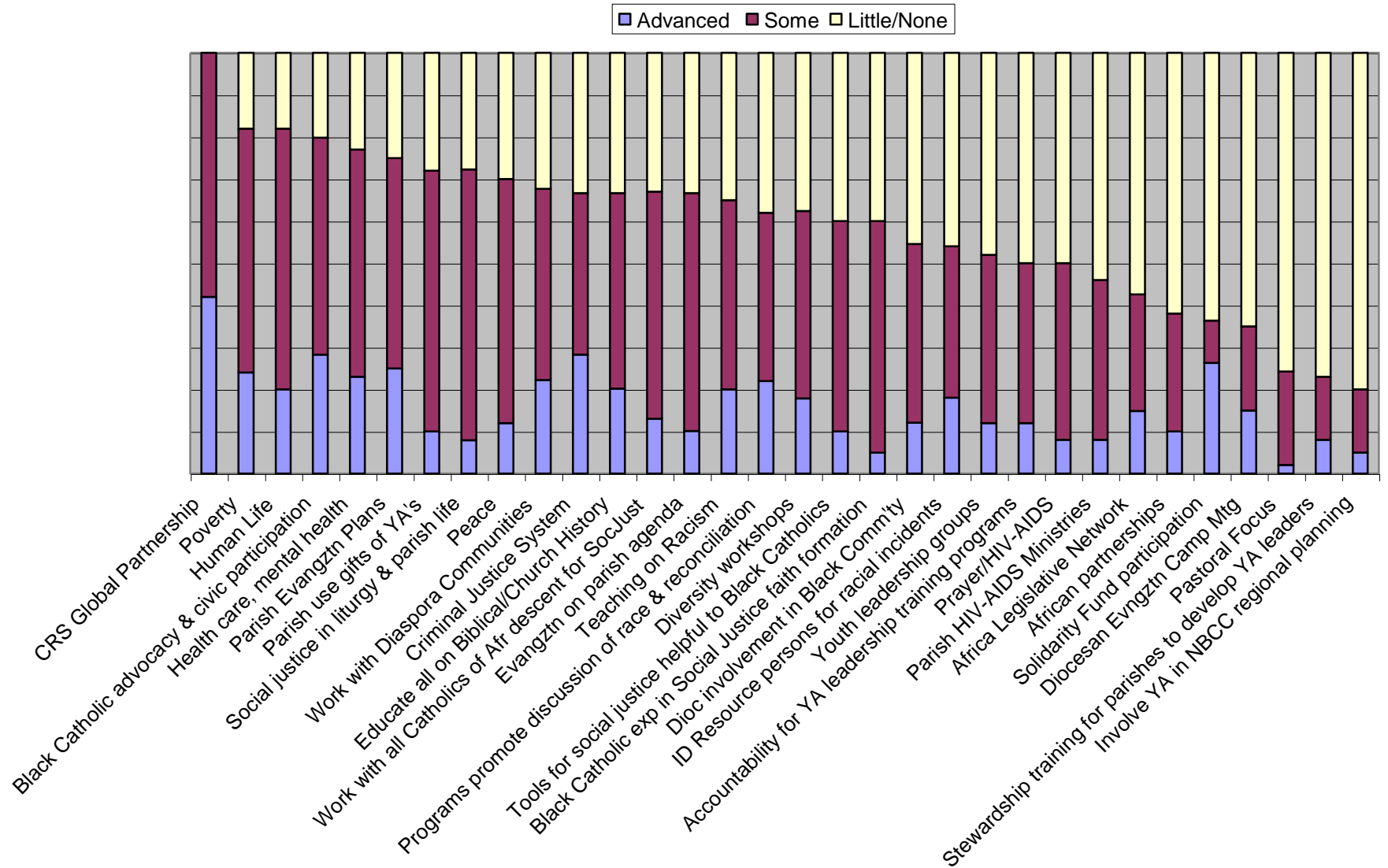
The first table reports the progress levels reported by arch/dioceses responding to the survey. The same data are also presented graphically in two bar charts, which are identical except that the first names the action step, while the second categorizes the action step by its Core Principle. The action steps are arranged in the table (top to bottom) by Advanced Progress and in the charts (left to right) by level of progress overall (combination of Advanced and Some).

**Table 1: Percentage of Responding Arch/Dioceses Reporting Each Level of Progress**

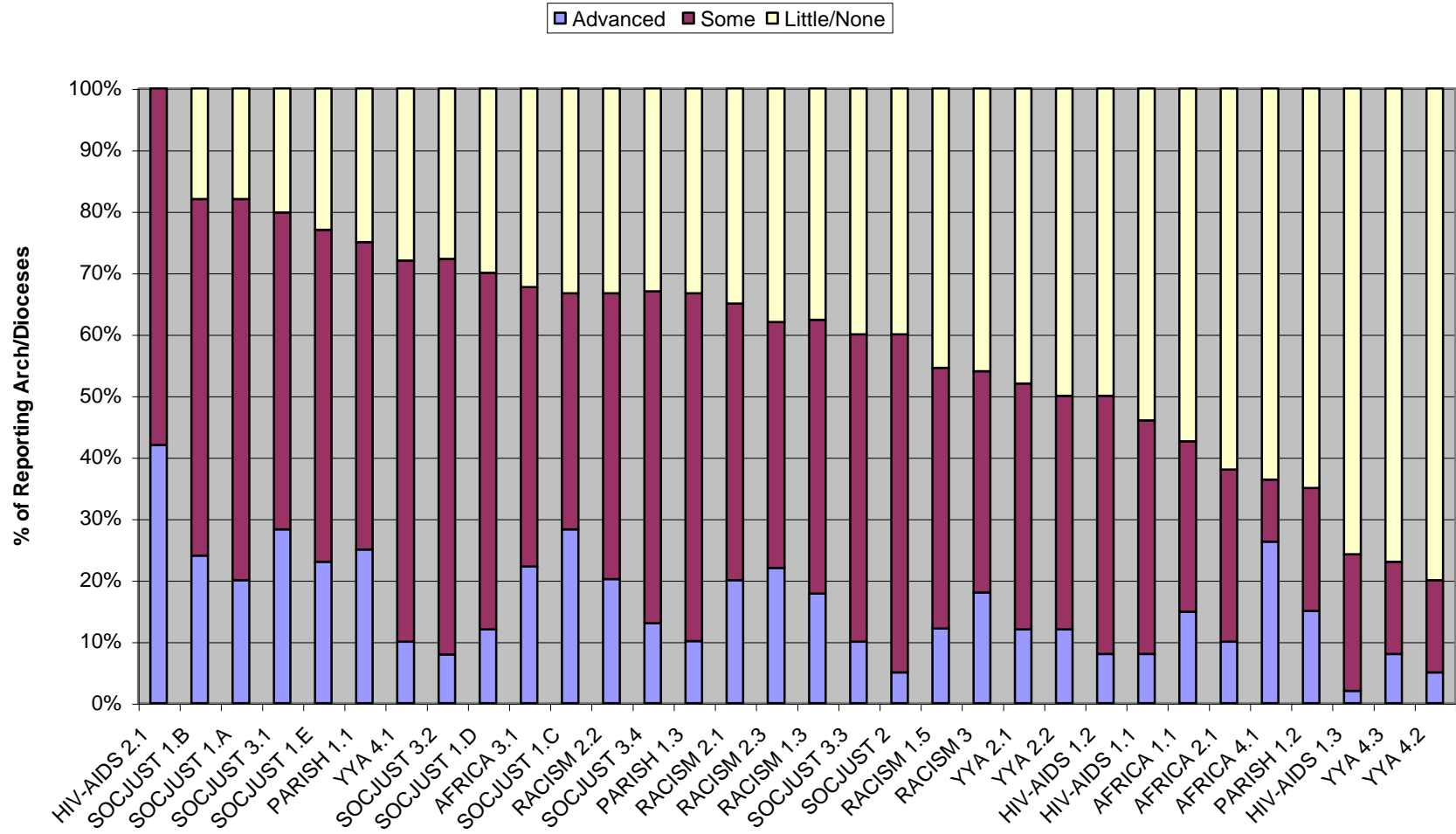
<b>PRINCIPLE*Action Step</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Some</b>	<b>Little/None</b>
HIV-AIDS 2.1 CRS Global Partnership	42%	58%	0%
SOCJUST 3.1 Black Catholic advocacy & civic participation	28%	51%	20%
SOCJUST 1.C Criminal Justice System	28%	38%	33%
AFRICA 4.1 Solidarity Fund participation	26%	10%	63%
PARISH 1.1 Parish Evangelization Plans	25%	50%	25%
SOCJUST 1.B Poverty	24%	58%	18%
SOCJUST 1.E Health care, mental health	23%	54%	23%
AFRICA 3.1 Work with Diaspora Communities	22%	45%	32%
RACISM 2.3 Programs promote discussion of race & reconciliation	22%	40%	38%
SOCJUST 1.A Human Life	20%	62%	18%
RACISM 2.2 Educate all on Biblical/Church History	20%	46%	33%
RACISM 2.1 Teaching on Racism	20%	45%	35%
RACISM 1.3 Diversity workshops	18%	45%	38%
RACISM 3 ID Resource persons for racial incidents	18%	36%	46%
AFRICA 1.1 Africa Legislative Network	15%	28%	58%
PARISH 1.2 Diocesan Evangelization Camp Mtg	15%	20%	65%
SOCJUST 3.4 Work w/all Catholics of African descent for Social Justice	13%	54%	33%
SOCJUST 1.D Peace	12%	58%	30%
RACISM 1.5 Diocesan involvement in Black Community	12%	42%	45%
YYA 2.1 Youth leadership groups	12%	40%	48%
YYA 2.2 Accountability for YA leadership training programs	12%	38%	50%
YYA 4.1 Parish use gifts of Young Adults	10%	62%	28%
PARISH 1.3 Evangelization on parish agenda	10%	56%	33%
SOCJUST 3.3 Tools for social justice helpful to Black Catholics	10%	50%	40%
AFRICA 2.1 African partnerships	10%	28%	62%
SOCJUST 3.2 Social justice in liturgy & parish life	8%	65%	28%
HIV-AIDS 1.2 Prayer/HIV-AIDS	8%	42%	50%
HIV-AIDS 1.1 Parish HIV-AIDS Ministries	8%	38%	54%
YYA 4.3 Stewardship training for parishes to develop YA leaders	8%	15%	77%
SOCJUST 2 Black Catholic exp in Social Justice faith formation	5%	55%	40%
YYA 4.2 Involve YA in NBCC regional planning	5%	15%	80%
HIV-AIDS 1.3 Pastoral Focus	2%	22%	75%

- Numbering provides Goal # (before decimal) and Action Step # listed in *Congress X Plan of Action*.
- Percentages based on 40 archdioceses and dioceses that completed the survey.

## Diocesan Progress on Action Steps of Congress X Plan, Spring 2009



### Progress on Principles and Action Steps of Congress X Plan, Spring 2009



## SUMMARY

Every diocese reports being in contact with Catholic Relief Services about its Global Partnership programs with Africa—a goal set forth in the Plan for the principles of both Africa and HIV-AIDS. This action step had, by far, the greatest reported progress. Two out of three dioceses reported outreach to and support for the cultural activities of the African communities in Diaspora. Some of those not reporting progress on this action step are in areas of the country with relatively few African immigrants.

Little progress is being made on the other goals set for the HIV-AIDS and Africa principles. Progress on the goals for Youth and Young Adults is weak, with the exception of the step to make better use of the talents and gifts of young adults in the parish.

Social Justice is faring much better, with a strong majority (at least 2/3) reporting some or advanced progress on specific social issues (poverty, life, health care, peace, and criminal justice, in that order) and on bringing social justice issues into the liturgy and involving Black Catholics in advocacy and action for Social Justice. Less progress has been made on the broader goal of bringing Black experience into the Church's social teaching, and the converse goal, of communicating the Church's social teaching in a way that speaks to Black experience.

The Action Plan proposes ten steps related to Racism, including some steps requiring action at the national level (such as creating "homily helps" so that clergy will speak out effectively on racism). Of the local-level steps in the survey, progress on this principle falls in the middle range—neither as strong as social justice nor as weak as HIV-AIDS, YYA, and Africa.

On Parish Life, most dioceses report that parishes are making at least some progress developing evangelization plans, but few dioceses have taken the specific step encouraged in the Plan: to hold a diocesan "camp meeting" to provide tools to assist parish efforts.

The survey questions for Spirituality and Catholic Education were qualitative. Details of those findings are available from NBCC.