

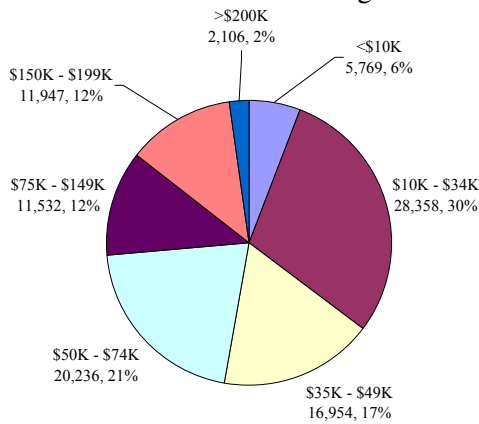


### The Need for Affordable Housing in Anaheim Preliminary Research

The right to live a dignified existence is the foundation of a moral vision for society to which Catholic Christians ascribe. This vision is the foundation of all principles in the Catholic Social Teachings. The manner by which a community is organized in economics, law, policy and social service directly affects human dignity and people’s capacity to grow in that community.

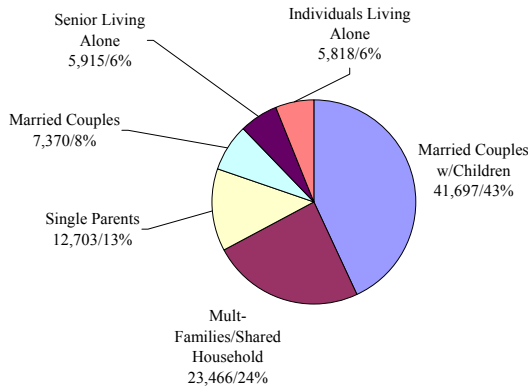
In Anaheim, over 40,000 of its 96,000 households live below the benchmark 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Affording the basic necessities in life is a challenge often confronted by these families as they live with the burden of high cost of rent in Anaheim.

Table 1 – Distribution of Income among Anaheim City Households



As a result, these families often forego other basic necessities in order to afford to live in their homes. A common course of action taken by families to offset the costs of rent is to share apartment units with other families. A closer look at the households’ profile reveals that 24% or over 23,000 of all households are occupied by more than one family. Another 13% are single-parent households and 6% are occupied by a senior citizen who lives alone.

Table 2 – Distribution of Households by Type



Multiple families sharing an apartment unit designed for single-family use causes many other issues to arise within the community. As resident density increases in a neighborhood, the rate of gang activity, vandalism, robbery, and other violent crimes also rises.

Looking at four neighborhoods in Anaheim, two with well-managed Affordable Housing developments and two without, the difference in criminal activity between the Affordable Housing developments and the overcrowded apartment communities are staggering. Police activity was in worst cases over four-and-a-half times more than police activity in Affordable Housing Developments. Studies have shown that natural aggression manifests itself more commonly in highly dense places.

Table 3: Comparison of Police Activity in Sampled Neighborhoods January 2008 – June 2009

|                               |                       | <b>Calls for Service<br/>(from Police)</b> | <b>Crime<br/>Reports</b> | <b>Arrests</b> | <b>Citations</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Overcrowded Apartments</b> | 2083 S. Mountain View | 32   | 6                        | 1 <sup>1</sup> | 0                |
|                               | 196 West Guinida      | 57   | 8                        | 4 <sup>1</sup> | 5                |
| <b>Affordable Housing</b>     | 385 S. Vine Street    | 12   | 0                        | 0              | 0                |
|                               | 1860 W. Crescent      | 1  | 2                        | 0              | 0                |

1. Arrests were for: ADW, Battery, Rape and Criminal Threats

In 2007, the average cost of rent for a two-bedroom apartment unit in Anaheim was \$1,362 - an increase of 32% from the average cost per unit of \$1,035 in 2000. Although the average household income of \$55,147 increased by 20% since 2000 from \$45,576, studies have shown that the increases were driven by those whose income were already above \$60,000; who are in most cases home owners. . This means that those individuals with income within 200% of the FPL did not get the increase in salary; but were subject to the increase in cost of living due to climbing rent prices.

Based on the average cost of rent, a household needs a combined income of \$54,480 to be able to afford the basic necessities. With over 40,000 household making less than that amount, almost half of families



in Anaheim are affected in one way or another by the high cost of living. This is an injustice that goes overlooked most times.

The San Antonio de Padua Peace and Justice Committee and St. Boniface Local Organizing Committee, as fellow stewards of Anaheim's precious resources, call upon the community to rise to your faith's call to Social Justice. The city leaders we've elected have, in the last four years, helped the city by voting to establish an Affordable Housing Strategic Plan – a plan that has produced over 1,300 Affordable housing units. In spite of the program's success however, it was only termed to be active for four years; and as it nears its expiration, the call for such assistance is louder now more than ever. A decision to renew the Affordable Housing Strategic Plan will be voted upon by the Anaheim City Council in August. We pray that the city leaders will hear the call of the people; and vote to renew the program for another term.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:35-36,40b